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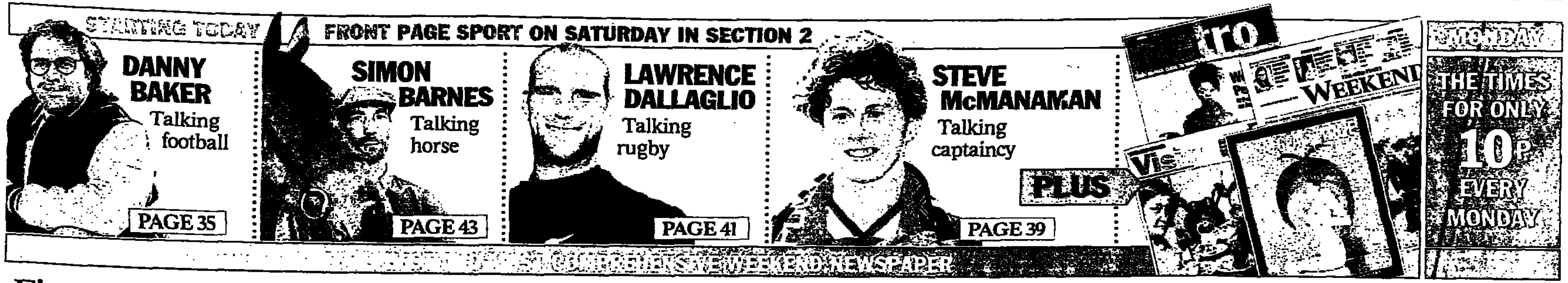

First U-turn enrages the old guard

Hague deserts hereditary Tory peers

By Andrew Pierce and James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE is preparing to abandon the Tories' long-standing opposition to Labour plans to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The unexpected move, which would mark the biggest policy shift since Mr Hague became leader, would put him on a new collision course with the Tory old guard. The Conservatives, whose hereditary peers dominate the Lords, have always defended the hereditary principle.

The Tory election manifesto opposed fundamental changes to the constitution "which have not been fully thought through — such as opposition proposals on the House of Lords". But Mr Hague has told senior advisers that the party has to reconsider its position and is likely to abstain on a government Bill next year which would abolish the hereditary peers' voting and sitting rights.

Despite the planned U-turn, the Tory leadership would still try to alter some of Labour's plans. The change, which emerged from Mr Hague's policy review, was canvassed among a small group of party officials.

Hague loyalists in the Lords last night tried to play down the rethink, driven by the reality of Labour's 178-seat Commons majority which would guarantee the legislation went through. Senior strategists at Central Office have convinced Mr Hague that the party had nothing to gain, and plenty to lose, by opposing a constitutional change popular in the country.

"What is the point of getting a bloody nose in a battle we cannot win," said one Hague supporter yesterday. "This is pragmatic politics."

However, the policy change will be opposed by some Tory MPs and could lead to a high-powered rebellion in the Lords. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor who renounced his hereditary title to take a seat in the Commons, warned last night Mr Hague would not have it all his own way.

"He should leave things as they are," Lord Hailsham said. "The system has worked well since time immemorial. Critics of the system overlook the fact that many ordinary people assume hereditary peerages. I will vote against it if there is a free vote."

A senior Tory source in Lords said: "We are not unhappy with the idea of reform, but we think it should be reform that works and everything we have seen from the Labour party won't work."

Mr Hague's supporters said last night that the fact he was prepared to consider such a radical change indicated that there were no "no-go" areas for his leadership. They said that Mr Hague, like Tony Blair, was prepared to take on critics in his own party as part of a comprehensive review of policy and organisation.

Labour will unveil the first stage of its reforms of the upper house in the Queen's Speech next year with the introduction of legislation to abolish the sitting and voting rights of hereditary peers. The Tories have 326 hereditary peers, Labour 15, and Liberal Democrats 23. The move will also prevent 205 hereditary crossbench peers from sitting.

The first stage is likely to pass through Parliament by the summer of 1999 and come into force later that year. The Tories said Labour's plans would turn the Lords into an "ermine-clad quango" of Labour life peers who would never oppose the Prime Minister.

The row over the House of Lords came as counting began today in the ballot of Conservative members to endorse Mr Hague's leadership and outline plans for party reform. Nicholas Winterton, a member of the 1922 executive who backed Mr Hague in the final ballot, suggested the reforms might sweep away too many of the party's traditions and eventually, its fundamental principles. "We don't need to have a Stalinist . . . situation in the Conservative Party, dramatically to change what we actually believed in," he said.

Tim Hames, page 22

SIMON WALKER

Catwalking for the kit

By Grace Bradberry, style editor

KATE MOSS, left, and Jade Jagger yesterday paid a fashion designer the greatest compliment — they waived fees for modelling in his show in return for his brilliantly coloured and hand-embroidered clothes, which sell at about £500 for a dress.

Newcomer Matthew Williamson, 25, staged his first catwalk show during London Fashion Week yesterday with a little help from his well-known friends, including the supermodel Helena Christensen as well as her colleague Miss Moss and Miss Jagger, an artist, part-time model, mother of two and the daughter of Mick and Bianca Jagger.

Miss Jagger wore a bright yellow, silk drape top with lilac mini-skirt, while Kate Moss modelled a blue cashmere cardigan over a fuchsia, bias-cut dress. The showstopper was a nude georgette dress with silver beaded cobwebs, worn by Helena Christensen.

This was only Williamson's third collection since he set up his business in 1996, but the St Martin's graduate's quirky, decorative designs have been bought by influential London fashion stores such as Browns and A La Mode as well as Barneys, the New York department store.

After the show, staged in a rehearsal hall in Notting Hill, Williamson played down his star cast. "Some of them are personal friends and they all wear my clothes anyway," he said.

Williamson was not the only designer to benefit from celebrity connections. Tomasz Starzewski let the television comedians Hale and Pace join his team of workers. Their creations — two red pinstripe shift dresses — were in the show, which will feature in a BBC documentary.

Demi Moore and Janet Jackson are among the celebrities expected to attend the six-day event. Sponsored by Vidal Sassoon, it is the biggest yet with 50 catwalk shows and a trade exhibition featuring 140 designers.

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Golf fightback

On the first day of the Ryder Cup Europe fought back to hold the US 3-3. Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer lost to Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara in the fourballs but won in the afternoon..............Pages 33-35

Rusedski wins

Greg Rusedski staged one of his customary comebacks to reach the semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, the richest tournament in tennis. He will now meet Pete Sampras....................Page 40

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EMU hint pushes market to record

By Alasdair Murray and Philip Webster

REPORTS claiming that the Government is preparing for an early entry into a European single currency pushed the stock market to a record high but caused the pound to plunge yesterday.

The FTSE 100 recorded its biggest one-day points gain for ten years, closing up 160.8 points at 5226.3. At its peak, the market touched 5244.3, a rise of 178.8 points.

Bond prices also soared but the pound slumped on the foreign exchanges. Sterling fell to a four-month low against the German mark, to close down four pfennigs at DM2.8324.

The Government moved quickly to play down the reports as speculation. It is preparing a statement in the next two months to confirm that Britain will not take part in the first wave on January 1, 1999. It will promise all the help for preparations for economic and monetary union during the British presidency of the EU in the first six months of next year.

The move comes amid growing signs of optimism among ministers that the Government will be able to recommend entry into the single currency in a second wave.

Britain will host a summit of heads of government in London in April or May which will decide which countries can enter in the first wave. Ministers have decided that it would be illogical for Britain not to make its own position clear before that meeting.

The Confederation of British Industry said last night it looked forward to an announcement on EMU as it would bring "greater certainty" to British businesses.

Leading article, page 23
Shares soar, page 27

Drug test cloud over Tufnell

By John Goodbody

PHIL TUFNELL, the Middlesex spin-bowler, faces being dropped from the England party to tour the West Indies this winter because he allegedly refused to give a urine sample in a random drugs test last week.

Tufnell, 31, now has to appear before a disciplinary committee of the England and Wales Cricket Board to answer the charge. He is reportedly on holiday abroad and unavailable for comment.

The spinner's troubled career has included being fined £800 in 1994 by a North London court for assaulting his former fiancee, Jane McEvoy, while she was pregnant. Last February, he was accused of smoking marijuana in the lavatory of a restaurant in New Zealand, an allegation he denied.

Turbulent career, page 40

Pensioner faces war crimes trial

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

A RETIRED British Rail worker has been charged with war crimes in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, Scotland Yard said last night.

Andrzej Sawoniuk, 77, from East London, faces five charges of murdering Jews in Belarus, once part of the Soviet Union.

He was charged by officers from the Yard's war crimes unit after appearing voluntarily at Southwark police station yesterday. He was bailed to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on October 30. The decision to charge Mr Sawoniuk, known as Anthony Sawoniuk, was made after John Morris, the Attorney General, gave his consent to a prosecution under war crimes legislation.

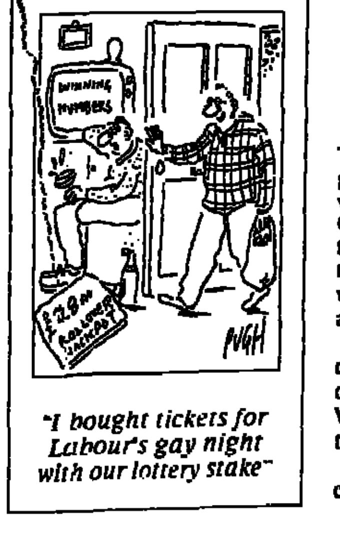
Mr Sawoniuk came to Britain in 1946. He has been under investigation for more than two years.

He is the second man in Britain to be prosecuted under the 1990 War Crimes Act. In January three charges of murder against Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, were dropped after a judge at the Old Bailey decided he was unfit to plead because of his mental state. He died this summer.

Serafinowicz was originally charged with murdering four unidentified Jews while working as a senior policeman serving with the Nazis. One of the murder charges was subsequently dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

After the collapse of the trial, some MPs condemned the investigations as a waste of time and money. However, there was also strong cross-parliamentary support for carrying on with the process.

The war crimes unit, based in the Yard's organised crime group, is presently investigating three other elderly men living in Britain.



"I bought tickets for Labour's gay night with our lottery stake"

What a gay old time for new Labour

By Andrew Pierce
Political correspondent

THE Labour leadership has approved a gay night at the party conference hotel where Tony Blair and the rest of the Cabinet are staying. The event will rival the more raucous attractions of the traditional Welsh and Scottish evenings, which were favourites of Neil Kinnock and John Smith.

While beer, whisky, and rugby songs dominate the Celtic gatherings ballroom dancing will be the main attraction at Wednesday's cabaret and discotheque at the Metropole Hotel.

In the past the gay movement has been consigned to meetings on the fringe. But with one openly gay member of the Cabinet, and a Government pledge for a free vote on the age of consent, the leadership has approved a gay celebration.

All MPs have been invited and fly sheets have been printed saying: "Be gay for a night." Jackie Clune, a cabaret artist, will perform the songs of the late Karen Carpenter and the star attraction will be an all-gay dance troupe, the Pink Dancers, performing ballroom and Latin American dressed in flamenco pink. They will lead the guests through their paces in a 1950's line-dancing routine. A disco will feature gay music with the *Village People* heading the hit parade.

The 400 tickets are selling fast and the organisers hope that Chris Smith, the first openly gay Cabinet minister, will join in the dancing with his partner, Dorian Jabri, who discussed their relationship in *The Times*. Labour now has four MPs who have come out. Stephen Twigg, the conqueror of Michael Portillo in Enfield Southgate, Ben Bradshaw, the MP for Exeter, and Angela Eagle, the MP for Wallasey. They are all expected to appear.

Stonewall, the organisation which campaigns for lesbian and gay equality, has organised the evening which has become the most talked about event on the conference party circuit. Anya Palmer, research officer, said: "It's just a fun night with no speeches."

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WEEKEND

Back to Nature Notes
Meet Peter Brookes, The Times cartoonist

A lot of bottle
Jancis Robinson on the New World wine revolution

WEEKEND MONEY

Peppered with cash
Where the Spice Girls really, really count

REUTER

A 1967 Ford Anglia Estate taken by Nigel Broderick and his wife Paula through a stream in Uttar Pradesh, in the Peking-Paris Motor Challenge

New hope of EU ban on tobacco advertising

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government is to press for a Europe-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship in a move that could speed up a ban in this country.

Health ministers are now optimistic they can get agreement for a new directive at Luxembourg in December, which could result in outlawing tobacco advertising in Britain by next autumn.

The United Kingdom has been one of a number of countries blocking attempts over for the past few years for an Eu-wide ban on tobacco advertising. Other countries include The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Greece.

The Tories opposed the ban because it resented greater interference from Brussels and was wary of taking on the tobacco industry. However, Labour included a pledge to ban tobacco advertising in its manifesto and the Government has since announced that this will be extended to sports sponsorship.

Finland and Belgium have already introduced a ban on tobacco sponsorship of major sporting events and France has some restrictions on sports sponsorship. But Britain is now confident of toughening up the EU directive, which had originally only dealt with tobacco advertising on hoardings and magazines, to ensure a blanket ban on sports sponsorship throughout Europe.

The Government has already agreed that the sports sponsorship ban would be phased in over about four years, allowing most existing contracts, worth £10 million, to be honoured.

The phasing-in for sports sponsorship would also apply to the EU directive but British sources made clear that they would not allow companies to renegotiate longer contracts to get round the ban.

It is understood that Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, who will be attending the Luxembourg meeting, has been talking behind the scenes to her European counterparts and is confident that she can get their agreement in December.

The Government still intends to press ahead with a White Paper on measures to reduce smoking and a draft Bill to ban tobacco advertising in December, in case the EU directive fails.

The White Paper is likely to include other proposals to discourage smoking, such as raising the smoking age, banning smoking in public places and changing the location of vending machines.

Lucille McLauchlan and *Deborah Parry*

Nurses warned of long ordeal

By Mike Theodoulou and Daniel McGrory

THE two British nurses accused over the death of a colleague in Saudi Arabia have been told that they face at least another year's incarceration while the country's courts decide their fate.

Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan were "inconsolable" when warned by one of their lawyers this week that the diplomatic overtures and legal haggling over "blood money" would not mean an early release, a legal source told *The Times* last night.

Parry had collapsed when she heard an erroneous radio broadcast saying that she faced execution. McLauchlan has been told that the agreement of the dead woman's brother to show clemency will also spare her from her sentence of 500 lashes.

Both women are despondent despite hearing a radio broadcast in their cell yesterday by Frank Gilford insisting that he would not ask for the death penalty. He angrily denied making a personal profit from the deal.

Anger over press, page 10

Dublin frees five IRA men as 'reward' to Sinn Fein

From Martin Fletcher, Chief Correspondent

THE Irish government released five IRA prisoners last night in a move widely seen as a reward for the IRA ceasefire and Sinn Fein's participation in the peace process.

The releases angered loyalists and hardline Unionists in Northern Ireland who complained of yet another concession to republicans while the loyalists' three-year ceasefire had yielded hardly any benefits for more than 300 of their inmates in British prisons.

The men released from the Republic's top-security Portlaoise prison were arrested on the border of Donegal and Derry in 1992 for possessing three assault rifles, two heavy machine guns and nearly 700 rounds of ammunition. The prosecution at their 1994 trial claimed they were planning to shoot down a British army helicopter and they were jailed for six years.

The five were Patrick Villa, 28, Dermot McFarland, 32, and Kieran McFadden, 34, all from Londonderry, and two men from Donegal — Michael McLaughlin, 31, and Paul Rogers, 35.

The Irish government granted early releases to more than 35 republican prisoners during the previous IRA ceasefire which last 18 months until the Canary Wharf bombing in February last year.

Before yesterday it had given only two low-level IRA prisoners early releases since the latest IRA ceasfire began on July 20.

Sinn Fein welcomed last night's releases and called on the British Government to begin releasing all "political prisoners" immediately.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, raised the matter with Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, and John O'Donoghue, the Justice Minister, when they met in Dublin last week.

Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, said Dublin had released the IRA prisoners "to aid the IRA in wringing concessions from the British government".

He warned that "in the next two or three months you will have a running amnesty for prisoners. Little by little they will all be let out."

The British government said yesterday that it had approved the transfer of one loyalist prisoner from Scotland to Northern Ireland and of another from England to Scotland.

It was considering a request of a third to be moved from England to Scotland.

Mr Paisley met Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, at Stormont yesterday, but rejected her appeal for the Democratic Unionist Party to rejoin the peace process which it boycotted in July.

Valerie Grove, page 21

Straw challenged on right to jury trial

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Home Secretary will be challenged today over the Government's plans to look again at whether to scrap a defendant's right to elect jury trial.

Jack Straw, the key speaker at today's annual Bar conference in London, originally opposed the proposal to remove a suspect's right to choose jury trial in many middle-ranking cases that can go either to magistrates or the Crown Court. However, the Home Secretary indicated recently that there was some support for the proposal and said the Government intend to consult further.

Robert Owen, QC, chairman of the Bar, is expected to reiterate the Bar's strong opposition to the removal of the right, which would affect cases such as theft, handling stolen goods and some sexual offences.

It is estimated that the change would result in at least 20,000 extra cases being tried by magistrates rather than going to a Crown Court, saving many millions of pounds in costs incurred when cases are sent for jury trial but the defendant changes their plea to "guilty" at the last minute.

The conference, sponsored by *The Times*, Allied Dunbar and Toshiba, and organised by Blair Communications, is the top event in the Bar year. Mr Straw, who was invited by Cherie Booth, QC, this year's conference chairwoman, is expected to depict his vision of the criminal justice system in the 21st century.

Among other key issues to be debated are proposed changes to the criminal justice system, including the so-called defendant's right to silence, and police surveillance powers contained in the Police Act 1997.

☐ *A judge issued a warning yesterday* to barristers who take on too many cases. Judge Dennis Levy, QC, said defendants were needlessly being kept waiting to learn their fate.

If things did not change there would be financial "repercussions", he said. He said he had been about to make a "wasted costs order" in a case until Andrew Hall, for the defence, and Janet Boston, the Crown Prosecution Service counsel, had apologised to him.

Mr Hall was late arriving in his court to represent a client after another case was delayed. Miss Boston was late because a defendant in a different court was not taken there on time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cook halts export of 'armoured carriers'

Robin Cook was criticised yesterday for banning the sale of "armoured personnel carriers" to Indonesia when it emerged that they were six converted Land Rovers without any offensive capability. They came from the Rover Group but had been converted into armoured vehicles by Courtaulds Aerospace, a subsidiary of Courtaulds, the textiles firm. Courtaulds had applied for an export licence to sell them to Indonesia, which ordered them for its police force and had paid £600,000. The Foreign Secretary rejected the export licence application under his new ethics guidelines, prohibiting the sale of military equipment that could be used for internal repression.

Welsh ally for Davies

Dafydd Wigley, the Welsh Nationalist leader, defended Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday against what he called a "vicious" campaign by some Labour MPs to elbow him from office. Mr Wigley attacked critics of Mr Davies who, he said, had "been through hell and back to get a Welsh assembly established". Pledging Plaid Cymru's backing for the assembly, Mr Wigley welcomed the Welsh Secretary's consensus approach.

Gordon Brown tops poll

Gordon Brown is the most popular Chancellor since records began, according to a Gallup poll. His work rate — handing control over interest rates to the Bank of England and introducing a sweeping budget within months of taking office — has won the Chancellor a 70 per cent approval rating. Mr Brown's nearest rival in the poll of post-war Chancellors is the late R. A. Butler, who won an approval rating of 63 per cent in 1953.

Mass for Princess

Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, will speak tonight at an "upbeat" memorial mass for her daughter at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban. She will give a reading during the special evening service, which will be attended by Archbishop Keith O'Brien, the second most senior clergyman in Scotland. At Mrs Shand Kydd's request, there will be "uplifting" organ music more akin to the "ressurrection than the crucifixion".

Ovary doctor guilty

A leading gynaecologist was found guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday and admonished by the General Medical Council for removing a 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent. John Studd, 57, was found to have carried out the operation in July 1992 without justification but the GMC's Professional Conduct Committee rejected Jacqueline Bartley's claim that he failed to tell her what he had done. Mr Studd can continue to practise.

Prep schools' success

An analysis of the results of more than 150 preparatory schools showed them to be almost 50 per cent ahead of the state average for 11-year-olds. In English and science, 94 per cent of preparatory school children reached Level 4 of the national curriculum, compared with 63 and 69 per cent respectively in state schools; in mathematics, the figure was 93 per cent, while state primaries averaged 69 per cent.

Girls fall from flats

Two girls aged 13 and 14 are critically ill after falling from a balcony on the fifth floor of a block of flats in Bristol. Police are investigating claims that one of the girls had threatened to throw herself off and the other fell trying to save her. Residents and teachers from the girls' school, which is near the flats, gave first aid to the injured pair before they were taken to Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Food for thought

The best way to make fat people eat healthily is to ask them to record their normal diet, according to a study by the Institute of Food Research in Reading. Doctors previously thought that the obese were lying when they claimed to eat bird-like portions in studies, but they have discovered that people reduce their food intake while their diet is being monitored — and then hit the fridge after the study is over.

Keane 'in bar brawl'

Police were brought in to investigate a bar room brawl in the early hours last Thursday allegedly involving Roy Keane, the Manchester United captain. The Irish international is said to have been involved in an argument with two men at the Chester Court Hotel in Manchester. A police spokesman said: "A complaint was received and then retracted and no further action is being taken."

US buys Teletubbies

***Teletubbies*, the BBC television programme for young children, is to be broadcast in the United States. Under a deal announced yesterday, the corporation has sold 40 episodes of the programme to the American Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), a non-commercial channel designed to give viewers more instructive fare than is available on the country's plethora of commercial channels.**

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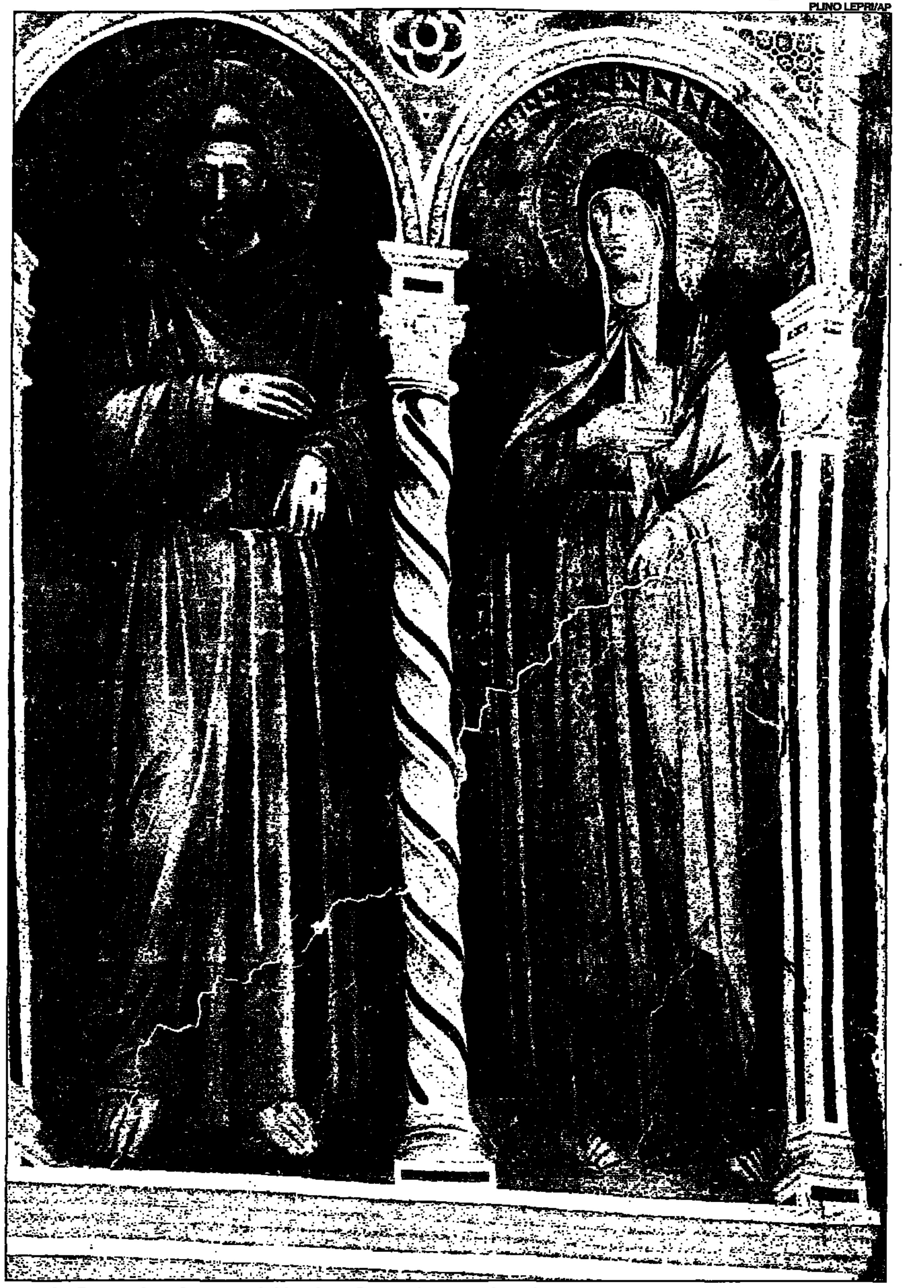
'Catastrophe' for world heritage

A monk offering water to one of the rescue workers at the basilica. The rubble inside was three metres deep



PLINIO LEPRI/AP

The first earthquake cracked this Giotto fresco of St Francis and St Clair. It was destroyed by the second

Treasures of 13th and 14th century left cracked and crumbling after earthquakes rock central Italy, reports **Richard Owen**

TWO powerful earthquakes which struck Italy yesterday killed at least nine people and badly damaged 13th and 14th century frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue in the basilica of St Francis of Assisi.

The dead included two Franciscan friars and an art restoration expert, who were examining damage caused by the first shock when the second, more severe, earthquake brought down the vaulted ceiling of the upper church of the basilica.

One of the friars, aged 25, *had only just joined the order* at Assisi. The other was aged 40. Rescue workers said they feared that more people could be trapped beneath three-metre layer of rubble.

The partial collapse of the church was described as "a pure catastrophe for world heritage" by the director of the *Louvre. One Cimabue masterpiece, The Acts of the Apostles*, appeared to have been almost completely destroyed.

"This is all that is left of one Cimabue fresco," said Costantino Centroni, the Superintendent of Fine Arts for Umbria, as he held a pile of dust and crumbling plaster in *his hands. Behind him* bulldozers and masked rescue workers shifted fallen masonry in the doorway of the basilica and clouds of dust billowed out.

A section of vaulting depicting an early church figure, attributed both to the young Giotto and Cimabue, was also believed to have been destroyed and at least two Giotto frescoes had jagged cracks running down them.

Dust clouds rising as rescuers remove debris in the basilica, where three people were killed

Water supplies and road and rail traffic were disrupted across central Italy, and the Government declared an emergency.

The first earthquake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, was at 2.33am. The second, at *11.42am, measured 5.7.* Both were felt as far north as Alto Adige, in the Italian Alps, and 60 miles south in Rome, where buildings swayed.

Umbria, the epicentre, often has minor tremors and residents and art experts had long feared a major shock which would pose a risk to the many art treasures in towns such as Assisi and Perugia. Yesterday's earthquakes damaged buildings in the 15th-century town of Urbino, in the Marche, which has a ducal palace is that is one of the jewels of European art and architecture.

The first earthquake was most strongly felt in villages near Assisi and in the relatively remote hill towns and villages of the Appenines. Two elderly couples from the villages of Collecurti and Cesi, in the Marche, were among those who died. Italian television, which interrupted normal programmes throughout the day to carry reports from the area, showed weeping villagers — many of them elderly — standing outside the ruins of their homes. Several villages have been evacuated in case of aftershocks.

Civil defence officials said *more than 2,000 people had* been made homeless because their houses were damaged or unsafe. Tents and blankets stored after the 1976 Friuli earthquake were distributed with fresh drinking water and medicines.

Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, flew to the disaster area with Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Culture Minister. An Italian cultural affairs minister described the damage to the works of arts as "enormous".

Pierre Rosenberg, director of the Louvre in Paris, said: "We will do all we can to help our Italian colleagues."

It was the damage at Assisi which caused greatest concern. The giant basilica was begun in 1228, two years after the death of St Francis, and its decoration attracted the leading artists of the day. They included Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337), who is credited with laying *the foundations* of the Renaissance — and therefore *of all modern art* — by abandoning the flat, mannered style of Byzantine painting and creating rounded, lifelike human images.

The basilica, divided into upper and lower churches, houses St Francis's tomb which was discovered only in *1818.* It has wall *frescoes* by Giotto, his mentor Pietro *Cavallini (1259-1344), Simone* Martini (1284-1344) and Giovanni Cimabue (c1240-1302). Giotto's cycle of 28 frescoes on the life of St Francis has just been restored, amid scholarly controversy over which were painted by him and which by Cavallini.

Officials said the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, in *the plain below Assisi, which* was built over St Francis's original hermit's hut, had also been damaged.

The epicentre of the earthquake was *near* Foligno, 20 miles from Assisi, now a largely modern town. Foligno hospital and the Romanesque cathedral at *Bevagna* were also badly damaged.

Two friars killed as second shock brings down ceiling

Rescuers are using sniffer dogs and bulldozers to find those buried in the rubble, writes **John Phillips** in Assisi

RESCUE workers used wheelbarrows, miniature bulldozers and spades to find the bodies of the dead as the full horror of the earthquake sank in.

Outside the basilica relatives of a municipal draughtsman trapped inside the church, and feared dead, berated *television crews* for blocking the path that ambulances were using to take out the dead and injured.

Armed police pushing wheelbarrows and civil protection workers using miniature bulldozers piled heaps of rubble on the lawn in front of the basilica as tourists, monks and nuns watched. Late last night police began using sniffer dogs to try to find other people who might be buried under the masonry.

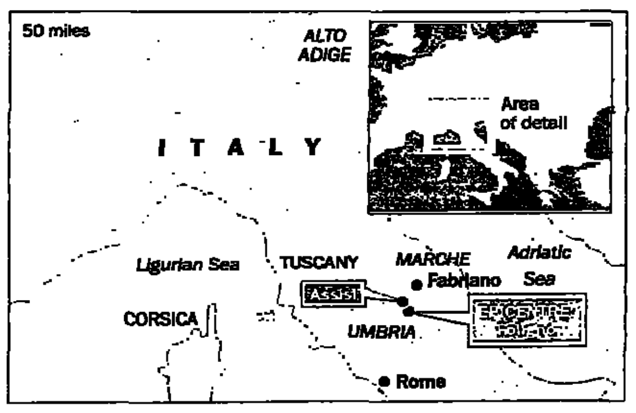
The head of the basilica's restoration team said that he had been among about 30 people who were inside the basilica when the second earthquake struck. Sergio Fusetti *said that the* group was expecting damage and had inspected the building at around 2.40am. He had not expected that there would be a second earthquake.

"When the shock happened we lifted up our heads and saw fragments of the basilica falling on us. We were about thirty people at the time. Some of us began to run and we were pulling the others along with our hands. The monks who died were behind me. Luckily, I was able to get out of the back exit."

He added: "The earthquake shock lasted a long time — it seemed like almost a minute. As I left the building large chunks were beginning to collapse."

With the group was Associated Press photographer Plinio Lepri. "I was taking pictures of the frescoes when I felt a first tremor," he said. "Maybe five minutes later, there was a stronger one and in that instant it seemed like everything fell around me.

"There was dust everywhere. I couldn't see anything. The rubble was up to my hips. I saw a light in one part of the cathedral. I had to climb over rubble, and kept falling. I was kind of in shock. I went toward the light and managed to get out a *window," he said,* adding that he saw two bodies in the rubble near the front entrance.



"It was the worst damage ever to the cathedral since it was built," said Mayor Giorgio Bartolini, covered *with dust and his trousers* ripped at the knee.

In a nearby street, nurses brought out weeping elderly women from a rest home. *Shops in the area were closed* last night. Residents loaded their cars with pillows, bedding and other belongings.

Two hundred people reported damage to their homes. Fontano Bartacci, 57, owner of the hotel Il Palazzo, lost his home. "We're scared. We've been through it before, but *this is the worst tremor we ever felt so we're leaving,"* he said. His family would stay on the outskirts of town in a friend's camper van.

There are conflicting reports about whether the earthquake had caused serious damage to the most important frescoes within the basilica executed by Giotto and Cimabue. First *reports quoted the* Superintendent of Fine Arts for Umbria, Constantino Centroni, as saying that works by the two had been gravely damaged. *However, a German monk,* Father Gerhard Ruf, who is responsible for the photographic archive of the basilica, later made a tour of the church to take photographs and said that there were only minor cracks at most to the works by Giotto and Cimabue. He said the main damage was to a fresco, in the trancept of the basilica, which has been attributed to Jacopo Torriti among others.

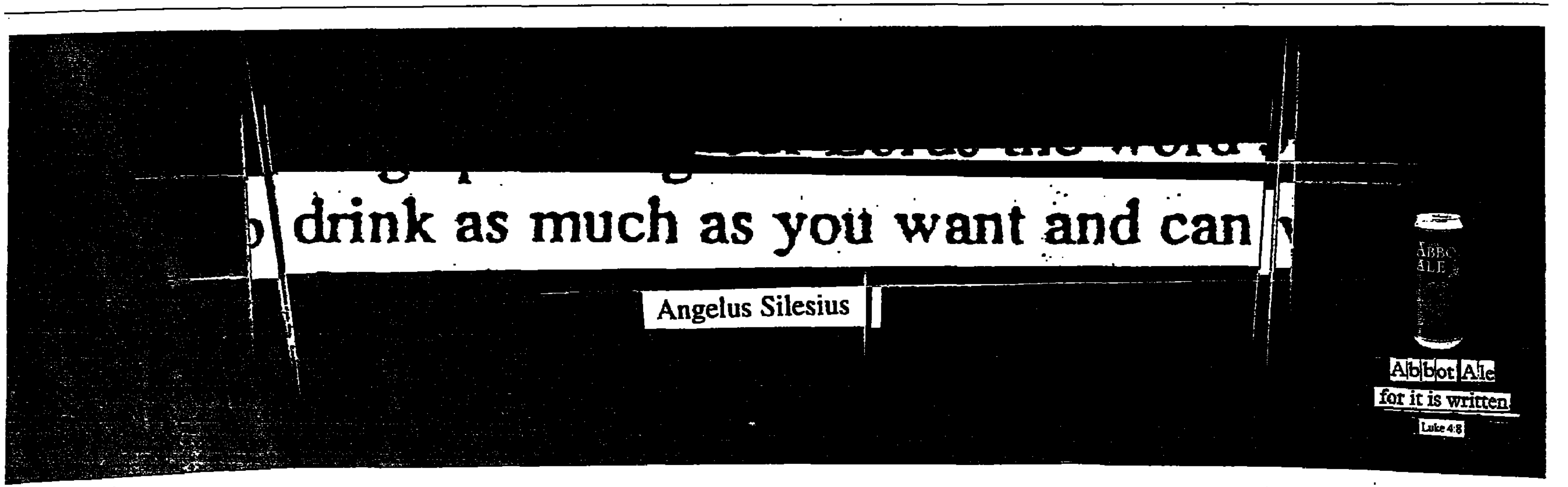
Father Ruf said: "Last night I thought that after the first shock it was all over. But the second shock was really much bigger. Thank God that we decided to close the church to tourists this morning. It was *by the grace of God that there* were relatively few people inside the church."

In Assisi yesterday evening *many residents decided to spend the night out of doors in* parks or in cars parked outside the city.

The damage to the 13th century Basilica coincided with preparations to mark the anniversary of the death of St Francis on October 3 in 1226.

Father Ruf said that the surviving monks would remain in the *monastery* adjoining the basilica.

The shock waves were felt as far south as Rome where a caste iron chandelier fell from a reception room in the Italian Senate, severely damaging an usher who was walking underneath. Damage was severe also in the Umbrian town of Faligno where the bell tower of *the city's cathedral collapsed.*



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Burglar who read Who's Who is jailed

Violent antiques thief leafed through the reference work to select judges and peers and planned each raid in great detail, reports **Joanna Bale**

A SELF-TAUGHT antiques expert who used violence to force his accomplices to burgle victims whose addresses he got from *Who's Who*, was jailed for 20 years yesterday.

Nick Stock masterminded the theft of antiques worth more than £2 million in 200 raids across two counties. Police say that since his arrest the burglary rate has dropped dramatically.

He travelled hundreds of miles to reconnoitre his target properties, belonging to judges, peers and a vice-admiral. He then cut telephone wires and disconnected burglar alarms before sending in his men.

Stock, 34, was said to know enough about valuables to star on BBC1's *Antiques Roadshow*. Sometimes he raided houses when the owners were in bed because he knew people usually did not switch on their burglar alarms while they were at home.

Detective Sergeant Dave McKinney, who headed the police inquiry, said after the case: "He would often recce a house months in advance. He would never forget a room. His gang would then return and he was able to tell them exactly what to take and where it was located. He was ruthless and treated the members of his gang terribly, using violence to secure their attendance at the burglary. He has an evil air about him."

The gang would get rid of what they stole immediately, selling it, or hiding it in nearby woods or undergrowth for collection at a later date. Once they smothered stolen property in fox bones to confuse police sniffer dogs. Only a small amount of the stolen property has been recovered.

Detective Constable Dave Johnson said: "The money *went straight into Stock's* pocket. Those of the gang that weren't afraid of him got their fair share, but there were those who saw nothing."

Stock was caught when one of his accomplices, Colin Marshal, asked for police protection because he feared his boss was planning to kill him. Marshal is now part of the witness protection scheme. A second informant provided further evidence.

Stock: "had an air of evil about him"

Sentencing Stock to one of the longest terms for burglary in recent years, Judge Michael Brodrick told him: "These burglaries are by a wide margin the most serious I have ever encountered."

Stock, of Fareham, Hampshire, had pleaded guilty at Winchester Crown Court to three burglary conspiracies stretching over five years. He was also sentenced for conspiracy to rob George's jewellers in Southsea, Hampshire, for which a jury had found him guilty.

Stock's gang of accomplices were also jailed.

Stephen Cooledge, 36, of Fareham, was sentenced to 14 years: 9½ years for conspiracy to rob, one year for the possession of a firearm with intent and 3½ years for conspiracy to burgle, to run consecutively.

Clay Meader, 22, of the same address, was sentenced to five years for conspiracy to rob and 12 months for conspiracy to burgle, to run concurrently.

Darren Nicholas, 22, of Crookhorn, Hampshire, was sentenced to nine years for conspiracy to burgle and 12 months for actual bodily harm, to run concurrently.

Richard Bateman, 32, of Fareham, was sentenced to three years for conspiracy to burgle. Michael Pearce, 38, of Sarisbury Green, Hampshire, was sentenced to 4½ years for burglary.

Darren Kearns, 27, of Fareham, was sentenced to *four years for conspiracy* to burgle. Kevin Wilcox, 26, of Lee-on-Solent was sentenced to three years for burglary.

Dale Saunders, 26, of Fareham, was given a community *service order of 200* hours for burglary.

Michael Hanton, 29, of Boscombe, Dorset, was given a suspended sentence of two years for conspiracy to burgle. Karl West, 27, of Portsmouth, was sentenced to three years for burglary.

James Iles, 21, of Portchester, Hampshire, was given an 80-hour community service order for dishonestly assisting the removal of stolen property.

TONY WHITE

Michael Gottlieb is served by a waiter in a hygiene suit in Café La Futura

Food rules protest is on a plate

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

RESTAURATEURS have finally had it with the wave of regulations foisted upon them by what they regard as the health nuts and cleanliness freaks of officialdom.

The Restaurateur's Association of Great Britain is fighting back against the health scares with shock tactics of its own. It has designed a hideous vision of the restaurant of the future, crippled by regulation, to be unveiled at the Labour Party conference in Brighton tomorrow.

Café La Futura is an epicurean's nightmare of what a restaurant could be like in 2020.

Food police prowl the floor, the waiters look like astronauts in their "hygiene suits" and ask diners: "Which menu have you been assigned? Low Risk, High Risk or the Menu for Those Challenged with Personal *Obesity*?"

One diner is asked to step on the scales before he orders a steak sandwich. Pregnant women are refused alcohol and steak knives are blunted to avoid injury.

Michael Gottlieb, chairman of the association, said that every issue tackled could be traced to a regulation somewhere in Europe or America.

Rush for lottery tickets may mean £28m jackpot

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A HUGE last-minute surge in sales of National Lottery tickets is expected today, which could push the double rollover jackpot to £28 million. Ticket sales have increased by 20 per cent in the past two days.

Many are expected to choose number 44 because it has been drawn more times than any other since the Lottery began in 1994. It has been picked 43 times in 183 draws and has appeared in the last three draws.

If the jackpot is won by one person he or she will become the biggest single winner to date. The highest jackpot paid out to a single ticket on a rollover was £22,590,829, which was won in June 1995 by Mark Gardiner and Paul Maddison. If there is no winner today, Camelot, the lottery organiser, said that it will produce the first triple rollover with an estimated jackpot of £50 million.

The double rollover, which is a result of there being no jackpot winners last Wednesday or Saturday, is only the third since the lottery began. In January last year there was a statistically unusual occurrence with two double rollovers in succession. Statisticians predicted that this should happen once in 400 years.

Camelot said that during the last double rollover, sales on the Saturday passed £60 million, peaking at £9 million in one hour in the afternoon.

David Epstein, a mathematics expert at Warwick University, said: "Of the 49 numbers, each has a one-seventh chance of being drawn. There have been 183 draws, which means each number should have been picked 26 times, but the number 44 has been picked 43 times. It is just one of those patterns that emerges when you have random numbers. But 44 will not be picked 43 times during the next 183 draws. You will see something else you didn't expect."

The absence of winners in the last two draws may have been influenced by the fact that many of the numbers drawn were high. Most people tend to pick lower numbers relating to birthdays or the ages of their children.

If the jackpot is not won, and it rolls over to Wednesday, Camelot said that if there is no winner then, the prize money will be shared among those who picked five winning numbers.

Professor Epstein said that the more people who buy tickets, the greater the likelihood of a winner.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRYSON'S NEW BOOK

❛Katz nodded thoughtfully, then fixed me with a sudden fearful look. You know what I look for in a female these days? A heartbeat and a full set of limbs. And that's just my starting point, you understand. I'm prepared to compromise on limbs . . .❜

Bill Bryson treks through the Appalachians with an old schoolfriend. Exclusive extracts from his hilarious new book start tomorrow

Freed paedophile will strike again, detectives warn

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PAEDOPHILE convicted of killing 14-year-old Jason Swift was in hiding last night after warnings from detectives that he has been freed to strike again. Robert Oliver, now 42, was released after serving eight years of a 15-year sentence for the manslaughter of Jason in 1985.

He is not subject to any supervision or recall because he was convicted before new regulations were introduced allowing checks to be kept on prisoners freed early.

Three other men, including Oliver's lover, are still prison for the crime.

Yesterday a Home Office official said Oliver, who has changed his name to Oliver Lee, will have to put his address on the new sex offenders' register.

He will also have to give any change of name as well as his original name. A friend who met him at a rendezvous near Wandsworth Prison after his release said Oliver would register.

But the Home Office said that if Oliver had only been convicted of murder or manslaughter he would not have been required to.

The offences covered by the Act were strictly limited and there is no separate offence of child murder or manslaughter. Oliver was also convicted of conspiracy to commit buggery, which brought him on to the register.

Yesterday police officers involved in the arrest of Oliver said they fear that the register will not prevent him from re-offending. One detective who tracked Oliver down said: "His main interest in life was abusing children and there is little chance of him being cured of it. He would represent a very serious menace."

Ex-detective Roger Stoodley, who led the four-year hunt for Jason's murderers, said: "I think almost certainly he will re-offend. It is all he has done most of his life."

Oliver was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1989 after being convicted with three others of killing Jason during a homosexual orgy in an east London flat.

One member of the gang, Leslie Bailey, was also convicted of killing Barry Lewis, six, from south London, and Mark Tildesley, seven, from a Berkshire fairground. Bailey was later found strangled in his cell at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire.

Oliver had already been jailed for five years in 1977 for procuring three boys for acts of gross indecency and an indecent assault on a boy aged 16.

Co-defendent Sidney Cooke, 66, is freed next April. They have said they will live together after a form of wedding.

Toyah Willcox, who has submitted more than 20 planning applications

Actress's plan for folly is thwarted

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

VILLAGERS have blocked an attempt by Toyah Willcox, the actress, and her husband Robert Fripp, the rock musician, to build an "overpowering" ornate folly at their 18th-century mansion.

Miss Willcox moved into Reddish House, a Grade II listed building in Wiltshire, in the early 1980s, and has made more than 20 planning applications. Her proposal for ornamental gates and a pavilion was rejected by Salisbury District Council after protests from local people.

Planning officers had recommended that the application be accepted but, after Broadchalke Parish Council unanimously objected, the planning committee refused permission, David Parker, its chairman said.

David Gilbert, vice-chairman of the parish council, said: "We just feel it is a never-ending saga."

Soldiers in Cyprus brawl case go free

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

THREE of the five British soldiers accused of assaulting a group of English tourists in Cyprus walked free yesterday after the prosecution accepted they could not have been involved.

The prosecution is now also considering whether to postpone indefinitely the separate trial of another soldier on the same charges because of the high costs involved.

There is now the prospect of just one soldier remaining in the dock even though the court has already heard from several witnesses that eight off-duty soldiers were involved in the fight. The Army has never disputed this.

The incident outside a nightclub early last month highlighted the Army's apparent difficulty in maintaining discipline among off-duty soldiers on the island. Three Royal Greenjackets are serving life for sexually assaulting and battering to death the Danish tour guide, Louise Jensen.

In the present case one tourist, Shane Bell, 23, had his jaw broken in three places and another, Barry Ford, needed 22 stitches to his face and head after he was beaten senseless. His girlfriend, Claire Harbour, 22, a nursery school nurse, suffered a badly bruised wrist.

They were appalled by yesterday's developments which signalled the virtual collapse of the overall prosecution case.

The prosecution decided to withdraw assault charges against three of the accused as it became clear they had been mistakenly picked out of a police identity parade.

Even a witness for the prosecution provided alibis for the trio, testifying last month that he was with two of them in a hamburger bar at the time of the fight.

Legal sources said it was most unlikely anyone else would now be charged since the main witnesses had already failed to correctly identify three of the defendants.

The three soldiers to be cleared are Steven Wolstencroft, 26, from the Manchester area, Steven Girvan, from Machester, and Tim Carter, from Liverpool, both 20.

The prosecution is considering whether to postpone indefinitely the trial of Stewart Spencer. He is to appear in court again next Tuesday with a fifth defendant, Roger Bell.

PHOTOGRAPHY MAX FORSYTHE

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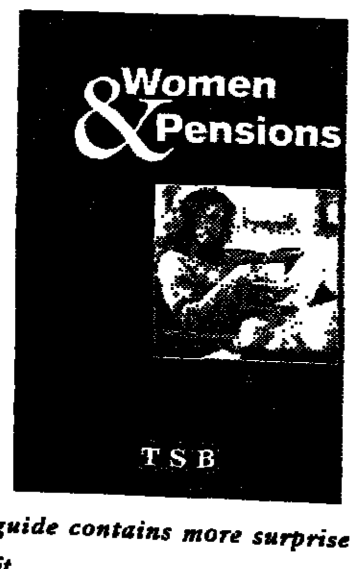

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*Source: Mintel 1996

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Britons race against time in Nevada desert to go supersonic

Thrust powers to a world-beating 714mph in the Black Rock sands. The next stop is Mach 1, writes **Giles Whittell**

WITH a formidable new land speed record under their belts and a smoothly-running 700 mph car, the *Thrust SSC* team plans to continue its bid to break the sound barrier on land with test runs resuming as early as today.

Craig Breedlove, the American, was expected to re-enter the high-speed duel in Nevada's Black Rock Desert yesterday, but only with "engineering runs" at up to 500 mph. Meanwhile, Andy Green, the *Thrust SSC* driver, and the small army of technicians who maintain his twin-jet car took yesterday off after an afternoon signing autographs and an evening of celebration. By that time, congratulatory messages had been received from the Queen and 10 Downing Street.

Today, weather permitting, the team will return to its meticulous schedule of gradual acceleration towards the speed of sound. Richard Noble, the team's leader, has vowed to "get the job done" by cramming as many runs as necessary into whatever time remains before autumn rains.

He faces mounting debts on his return to England, since each run costs an estimated $33,000 (£20,000) and he lacks an overall corporate sponsor — a fact that angered him even as champagne flowed.

"We've got people in borrowed cars and sleeping on borrowed mattresses," he said. "The corporate sponsors haven't come forward so far, and I don't expect them to."

Squadron Leader Green may already have come closer to the sound barrier than expected. Speaking after his record-breaking runs at an average speed of 714mph on Thursday, he said he could feel trans-sonic shock waves forming on the car and had detected subtle handling differences. His father Tony Green, 72, said yesterday he and his wife, Betty, had turned down an offer to watch the attempt. "We thought about going but we decided that Mum and Dad radiating nervousness would not do at all.

"He rang us afterwards and was bubbling over, euphoric. We know it is dangerous but it is what he wants to do and he is happy."

Thursday's second run at 728mph may have been at Mach 0.93 rather than the intended Mach 0.92 because of a following wind of 15mph, Ron Ayers, the project's aerodynamicist said.

Despite the presence of shock waves, the possibility of *Thrust SSC* losing its vaunted stability and becoming airborne as it passes through them remains remote, the team believes, since sensors indicate that the car's downforce on the track has remained constant.

"There were so many critics who said what we were trying to do was impossible, so there's an intellectual satisfaction in having got this far," added Mr Ayers, a former chief aerodynamicist at British Aerospace. He added, however, that "we're in a region of aerodynamics that changes very rapidly indeed".

Mr Ayers likened an assault on the sound barrier to "climbing a vertical mountain — every handhold and foothold must be checked". This approach makes a serious attempt on Mach 1 unlikely for the next few days.

The pursuit of the world land speed record began in France in 1898. The Briton, Malcolm Campbell, captured the record in 1924 in his Sunbeam Bluebird, travelling at 141mph.

Dunkirk spirit, page 22

From London to Paris in less than 16 minutes

TRAFFIC permitting, *Thrust SSC* could put a severe dent in world travel times (Adrian Lee writes). At its average speed of 714mph, journeys are impressively swift:

☐ London to Birmingham (118 miles): 9 minutes, 54 seconds.
☐ Land's End to John o'Groat's (870): 73 mins, 6 secs.
☐ London to Paris (187): 15 mins, 43 secs.
☐ London to Istanbul (1,560): 131 mins.
☐ London to New York (2,989): 251 mins, 11 secs
☐ London to Edinburgh (395): 33 mins, 12 secs
☐ London to Rome (907): 76 mins, 12 secs
☐ London to Coningsby (Andy Green's RAF base, in Lincolnshire) (136): 11 mins, 24 secs
☐ Around the M25 (117): 9 mins, 48 secs.

Computers test the safety limits

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE designers of *Thrust SSC* are relying on computer modelling and a rocket-driven test of a scale model to ensure that it can exceed the speed of sound safely.

Nobody has ever done it before. In aircraft the shockwaves that build up close to the speed of sound can be dispersed in all directions, but on land there is a risk that by bouncing off the ground they could disturb the attitude of the car.

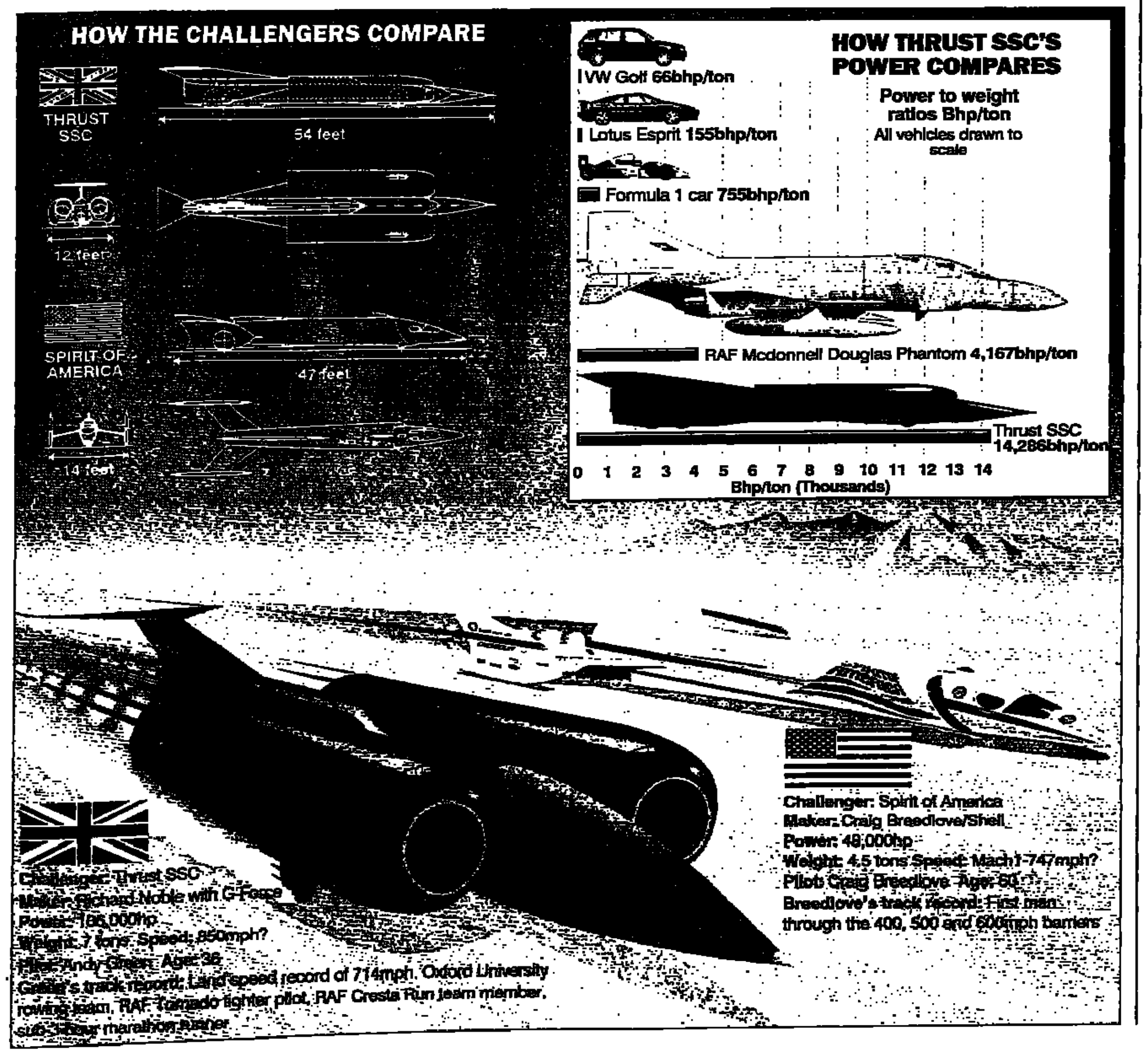
If that happened, it could fly up in the air or bury itself in the desert. Ron Ayers, the team's aerodynamicist, insisted on computer simulations using a Cray supercomputer before he was convinced that it could be done. The simulation was reassuring, but showed that, close to the speed of sound, forces tend to become volatile. "The problem is the forces and pressures acting on the car are constantly changing and so it sets new problems for the design of the car," Mr Ayers said.

To confirm the simulations, a model of *Thrust* was propelled on a sledge by a rocket motor at speeds of up to 820mph. This showed the levels of forces expected to act on *Thrust*.

To ensure that any out-of-balance forces can neither flip the car upwards nor drive it downwards, the designers fitted *Thrust* with an active suspension system on the rear wheels which can be triggered by out-of-balance forces in a split second to alter the attitude of the car. If the forces tend to drive *Thrust* upwards, the suspension will move to increase downforce and prevent the car taking off.

The turbulence does not all hit the car at the same moment. Because air is flowing over it at different speeds, depending on the curvature of the body at that point, there is a large region in which airflows are a mixture of subsonic and supersonic.

Andy Green, who is piloting *Thrust*, is already well into this region, and has reported evidence of it from his 700mph runs. The speed of sound is around 750mph.



Dover - Calais

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English vineyards finally bear fruit

For those winegrowers who have battled through icy conditions and frosty receptions, 1997 could be a good year, says **Simon de Bruxelles**

English wine-makers are predicting one of the country's best vintages after a summer of almost perfect conditions for their vines. A hot August with just enough rain followed by this week's benign weather have brought grapes to the peak of perfection several weeks earlier than usual. Picking of early varieties has already begun in many of the hundreds of vineyards which have sprung up since the 1970s.

But for around half the country's vineyards it will be a bitter harvest. The grapes may be of the highest quality but there are far too few of them.On the night of April 21 an icy hand brushed the southern half of Britain. The same blast of cold air wiped out the fruit harvest in Kent and frosted vines from Bordeaux to northern Italy.

In his study in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, Rowland Dunkley, a retired physicist turned winemaker, could only watch as sensors in his vineyard recorded the air temperature falling to -3.6C.

A couple of weeks later the daytime temperature was nudging 27C, encouraging his six acres of vines to put out their first delicate shoots from the buds which had survived. Then the frost returned. For four hours on the night of May 8 the temperature was lower than -2.6C.

"The next morning the shoots were all fried brown," said Mr Dunkley. "We lost 75 per cent and instead of producing 8,000 bottles this year we will be lucky to make 2,000. The consolation is that those grapes we do have are extremely good quality with a high sugar content." The frost may have blessed those vineyards it did not destroy. If this year's vintage fulfils its promise, it may prove a turning point in the public perception of English wine. At the Three Choirs vineyard, the second largest in England, 30 pickers set to work this week bringing in the first of what promises to be the best harvest since it was established in 1973.

> ❛ In many countries they pick at night or shade vines to reproduce conditions we have ❜

Vines cover 70 acres of gently rolling Gloucestershire countryside where orchards once stood. The original fruit growers had chosen the site well and the vineyard escaped the frost virtually unscathed. Winemaker Martin Fowke said: "I have been here ten years and the grapes are better this year than I've ever seen. We expect to produce around 200,000 bottles." English wines have been dogged by misconception and prejudice since their revival began more than 20 years ago. The first and most fundamental was that we are too far north to produce good quality grapes. According to Mr Fowke this is the opposite of the truth. Cooler conditions in England produce grapes with a better flavour than those grown in hotter climates.

"Britain produces some of the best top fruit in the world and it is the same with grapes," he said. "In fact, vines do so well here that we have to beware of over-cropping. We restrict the number of bunches of grapes to improve the quality and also the leaf growth because the plant tends to put its energy into greenery rather than fruit.

The relatively cool summers mean that fruit doesn't cook on the vine and in fact in many countries they will pick at night or shade the vines to reproduce exactly the conditions we have here."

Choosing the right variety of vine is crucial and most vineyards grow several to spread the risk and the chance of the harvest being disrupted by the weather.

Although England is unlikely ever to produce the finest quality red wines, because the grapes simply won't ripen, many vineyards are now making top-quality sparkling wines and international awards won by Three Choirs and other English vineyards are proof of their success in making light, fruity white wines.

The quality may rival their counterparts from the New World as well as the old but the tiny quantities mean they are always likely to be in short supply.

In the Middle Ages, England was covered with vineyards, many attached to monasteries. The Domesday Book recorded 12 in Somerset alone. But the acquisition of Bordeaux through the marriage of Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152 provided a cheap alternative supply. Those monks who did toil on in the vineyards saw the fruits of their labours destroyed when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries.The revival began with growers such as Mr Dunkley, who planted vines in his garden in Chorley Wood as an experiment in the mid-1960s. He bought his Wiltshire vineyard when he retired ten years ago and, like many English winemakers, is virtually a one man band.

For years they struggled on, hamstrung by strict EU regulations drawn up for the producers on the Continent which meant their wine never got the recognition they felt it deserved.

Even the introduction of new English Vineyard Quality Wine standards is only a partial help as it does not permit the use of hybrid grapes such as Seyval Blanc which have produced some of the country's finest wines.

Many of the early producers, lacking experience, relied on using hardy, high-yielding varieties such as Müller-Thurgau or Reichensteiner which produced reliable if uninspiring German-style wines. Today, Three Choirs grows 16 varieties, from Pinot Noir to the latest hybrids, developed especially for the English climate, such as Orion and Phoenix, and it looks to New Zealand rather than Germany for inspiration.The other prejudice English winemakers have to overcome is price. Mr Fowke said: "People think that we are expensive and it is true that English wines are not the cheapest on the shelves but what they offer is value for money. You might be paying £4 or £5 a bottle but you are getting an estate-bottled quality wine."

This year, for the first time, English wines are widely available in supermarkets. Tesco has even introduced a policy of offering regional wines. But many small producers such as Mr Dunkley simply don't produce enough to make it viable for the supermarket buyers.

"I could sell to a supermarket but they would probably want a minimum of 500 cases, which might be my entire production for the year," he said. "I sell a lot to personal visitors to the vineyard and also through hotels and restaurants within a 15 to 20 miles radius." For those with a few acres of sheltered, south-facing, well-drained land who would like to set up a vineyard as a small business, Mr Dunkley has one word of advice: "Don't".

"It is not a very good way of investing your capital," he said. "There is a very substantial outlay on equipment you might only use three days a year and not very much return. I do it because I enjoy it, not because it will make me rich."

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Fowkes: "I have been here ten years and the grapes are better this year than ever"

JANE MACQUITTY'S TOP FIVE

DESPITE the recent blast of sunshine, England's 1997 wine crop will not prove to be the vintage of the century unless this mild spell continues into October when the last grapes are picked. The last really good English and, to be precise, Welsh vintage, was 1995. That was the freak year when a sweltering August led to a surprisingly sunny autumn and England's '95s were accordingly superb; 1989 was another such English *annus mirabilis*.

Apart from the BBC, or "blasted British climate", as one English vigneron put it, the other rub that the 1,900 acres of English and Welsh grapes suffer is the usual technologically inept English winemaker. Most grapes are sent away to one of 150-odd commercial wineries and the end result reeks of classic winemaking faults such as searingly high acidity, oxidation and hydrogen sulphide, the nasty smell associated with rotten eggs. The good news, owing to imported expertise, most notably in the shape of the Australian-trained John Worontschak, who makes the Thames Valley wines and consults for dozens of other wineries, is that England's wines are improving dramatically with every vintage.

Today what you can expect from a decent English wine is not the cloying pseudo-Germanic white of yesteryear but a unique northern style of our own: a fresh, delicate, floral, crisp, yet grapey style. Here are my top five in order of excellence.

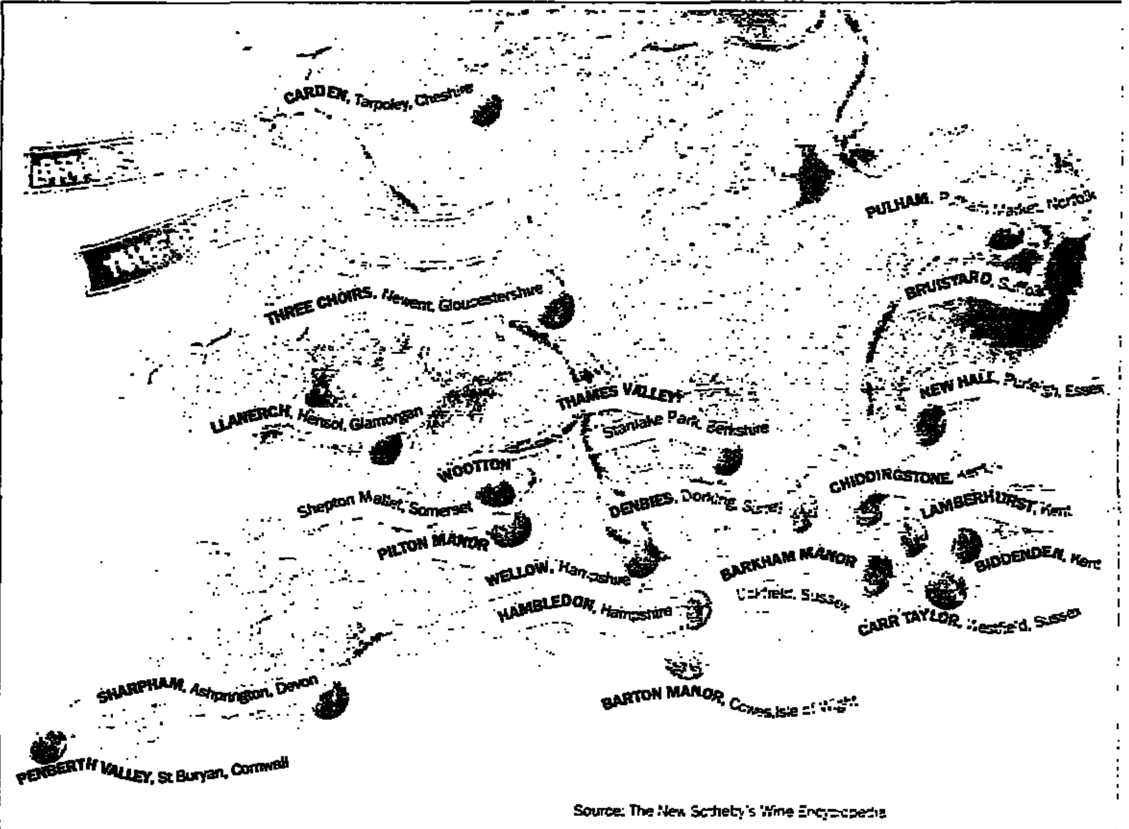
1: 1993 Thames Valley Vineyards Fumé (Thresher, Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, £6.89; Majestic Wine Warehouses, £8.99). Rich, golden, dry white with a smokey-oaky scent and floral palate that indicates the wine has been aged in oak.

2: 1995 Denbies Late Harvest (half bottle, Oddbins and Denbies, London Road, Surrey, £5.99). A rare treat: an English dessert wine made from late harvested, noble rot-affected grapes just like all the great sweet wines of the world.

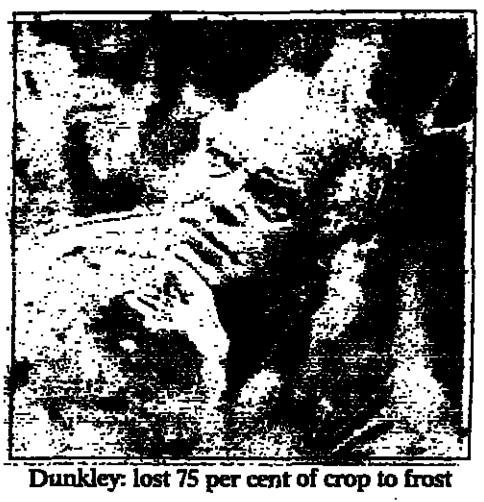
3: 1996 Chapel Down Bacchus (Wine Cellar, Berkeley Wines, £6.49). The palate here is so verdantly curranty that many will mistake this for a French sauvignon blanc.

4: 1995 Beenleigh Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (from Beenleigh, Sharpham House, Ashprington, Totnes, Devon, £14.99). An English red made from classic Bordeaux grapes, Beenleigh's red is the best we have made yet.

5: 1995 Northbrook Springs (Majestic Wine Warehouse, £4.99). A cracking English aperitif.


CARDEN, Tarpoley, Cheshire
PULHAM, Pulham Market, Norfolk
THREE CHOIRS, Newent, Gloucestershire
BRUISYARD, Suffolk
NEW HALL, Purleigh, Essex
LLANERCH, Hensol, Glamorgan
THAMES VALLEY, Stanlake Park, Berkshire
WOOTTON, Shepton Mallet, Somerset
CHIDDINGSTONE, Kent
DENBIES, Dorking, Surrey
LAMBERHURST, Kent
PILTON MANOR
BIDDENDEN, Kent
WELLOW, Hampshire
BARKHAM MANOR, Uckfield, Sussex
HAMBLEDON, Hampshire
CARR TAYLOR, Westfield, Sussex
SHARPHAM, Ashprington, Devon
BARTON MANOR, Cowes, Isle of Wight
PENBERTH VALLEY, St Buryan, Cornwall

Source: The New Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia



Dunkley: lost 75 per cent of crop to frost

UK WINE IN A BOX

Vineyards in England and Wales	413
Acres in production	1,915
Acres under vine	2,384
1996 production	2,396,000 litres
1995 production	1,279,500 litres
Bottles per acre	3,000
Duty per bottle	£1.06
Percentage of UK market	0.2

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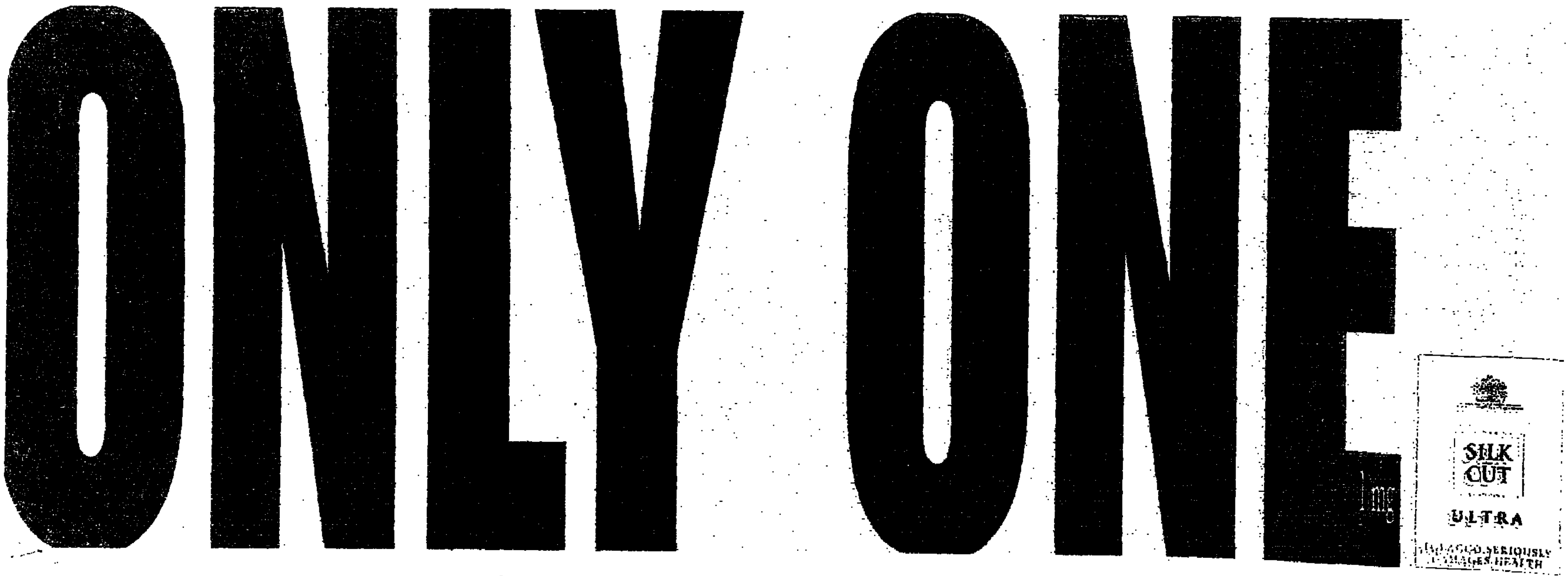

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RSTI

Saudis enraged by tabloids' attack on Islam

The Saudi Ambassador tells **Michael Binyon** he resents a billion Muslims' religion being insulted over the nurses

THE West appears determined to demonise the beliefs and practices of Islam, and this is causing enormous resentment in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Ambassador to London said yesterday. He did not mind criticism of his country, he said, but he resented the way that the British press had denounced the whole concept of Islamic justice.

In an attempt to defuse the political fallout, he said no one in his Government had taken offence at the remarks by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that the sentence on one of the nurses was unacceptable; he was merely defending British interests.

"I have no problem with anyone criticising Saudi Arabia," Dr Ghazi al-Gosaibi said. "But I have a lot of problems with people insulting Islam, because Islam is a divine revelation. And a lot of the things that were said — I hope in the heat of the moment — were offensive *not just* to Saudi Arabia but to many Muslims."

The ambassador is at the centre of the urgent diplomatic attempts to ensure that neither of the two women is flogged or beheaded. From the start of the case, he has been in constant touch with Andrew Green, the British Ambassador in Riyadh, with the Foreign Office and with the senior members of the House of Saud who, under Saudi law, have the final word on clemency.

One of his country's leading intellectuals — with degrees from the Universities of London, Cairo and Southern California — Dr al-Gosaibi is uniquely placed to understand the Western mind and to interpret what he admits is still a conservative, secret and deeply religious society.

Yesterday, relaxed and affable, he told *The Times* that he was convinced the case would be resolved without damage to Anglo-Saudi trade, political alliances or good relations. And he repeated his insistence that the death penalty would not be enforced.

He did not hide his worries that screaming tabloid headlines were making things more difficult. Indiscriminate use of the words "primitive" or "barbaric" were deeply offensive, he said. There were about a billion Muslims in the world. Not every one took the Koran literally; but the vast majority did, and the teachings on sin and on capital punishment were explicit.

"Some religions chose to water down their teaching and have it just as a private belief. Others did not, and take it as the literal word of God.

"I was hoping, while this debate is going on, that it would be kept in the confines of consular limits. This is a case of two British subjects accused of a crime in Saudi Arabia, and justice will take its course through due process. It happens here to Saudis. It happens to all citizens living abroad. We should be very careful not to insult the sensitivities of other people."

Mr Cook, he insisted, had not done that: he had a job to do to defend British interests, and that is what he had done. "I don't find anything offensive in what he said."

Dr al-Gosaibi, a former minister and political scientist who has published 40 books, saw dangers of a self-fulfilling clash of cultures. He cited telling examples of Western hypocrisy and failings. He ranged across the torrent of argument over "fundamentalist" Islam and political extremism. But he returned to what he called dispassionate objective analysis. "Some Saudis may say, 'Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and save Paris and London?' If we start exchanging this kind of 'dialogue', we would really be in great trouble."

To criticism that the trial was not open nor the evidence published, he noted wryly that virtually nothing was conducted in public in the desert kingdom. People did not speak about their wives or their illnesses. "This is a secret society." But that did not mean that the judges were not meticulous in examining the evidence. They were trained to take an adversarial approach to the police, not simply to accept police evidence or confessions. Otherwise, evidence could be fabricated and there would be no justice. Saudis were satisfied their system served them well.

He admitted that procedures were evolving, as Saudi society became more complicated. A generation ago a judge might deliver 20 judgments as he walked from his house to the mosque. Now there were three-man courts, five-member appeal courts, a supreme council and review by the King.

He foresaw more open proceedings — but not under pressure from the West. "If we start catering to every legal whim we could end up with something ridiculous."

He denied that the tough sentence was an attempt to show dissident hardline opinion that Westerners were not treated any differently; any sensitive murder case was automatically reviewed, with appeals for clemency.

And, as he noted with the dry wit that darts between all his arguments, "our judges do not read the tabloids". Dr al-Gosaibi had only sympathy for the dilemma of Frank Gilford, the dead nurse's brother. "He has been hounded and subjected to daily harassment. I really pray that he should be given some space to think it over."

He was modest about his own role, wincing at the "unfortunate" fact that news of the case came out as he was hosting Saudi national day, with warriors wielding their swords in traditional display in the opulently refurbished embassy. He noted that "diplomats tread carefully, where others rush in." But "all our jobs are about damage limitation".

And on that, he was optimistic. There was no crisis in Anglo-Saudi relations; trade would not be affected; justice would be done to the nurses.

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Letters, page 23

ROBIN MAYES

Dr al-Gosaibi yesterday: "Saudi Arabia is a secret society. That does not mean that judges are not meticulous"

Riyadh signs UN ban on cruelty

From James Bone in New York

AS THE sentence of 500 lashes was pronounced on the British nurse Lucille McLauchlan, Saudi Arabia was quietly joining a United Nations convention outlawing "cruel, inhuman or degrading" punishment.

The UN reported on Wednesday that it had acceded to the *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1984 and in force three years later.

Human rights experts say McLauchlan's sentence, and the possible beheading of Deborah Parry, would violate the convention, although Saudi Arabia usually enters a reservation requiring that no UN treaty provision contravenes Islamic law.

"Our view is that lashing as it is applied in Saudi Arabia does constitute torture, not simply cruel and unusual punishment, because it is so harsh and does draw blood and inflict pain," Clarisa Bencomo, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in New York, said.

The group has asked King Fahd not to ratify the sentences and to investigate the trial procedure.

The convention establishes the UN Committee Against Torture, which can receive complaints from signatory states about breaches by other treaty members.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asylum seekers' amnesty refused

The Government has rejected calls for an amnesty for asylum seekers to cut the backlog of 50,000 applicants waiting to settle in Britain.

Amnesty International had accused the Government of not doing enough to tackle outstanding cases. Mike O'Brien, the Home Office Minister for immigration, said the Government was committed to reducing the backlog but said there would be no "desperate measures". He told Radio 4's *Today* that a blanket amnesty would encourage abuse of the system.

Boy killed

An eight-year-old boy died after falling from a horse chestnut tree that he had climbed to gather conkers near his home in Wigan. Marc Abbott hit his head on the pavement and died in hospital.

Blast memorial

A memorial was unveiled in Dublin to 33 people who died in bombings in the city and the Irish border town of Monaghan on one night in 1974. The bombs were blamed on loyalist terrorists.

Glider death

A woman died after her motorised glider crashed and burst into flames. The incident happened shortly after take-off from North Weald airfield, Essex. The woman, aged 55, died at the scene.

Bodies charge

A sculptor and another man appeared before Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court accused of stealing body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons. They were bailed to December 11.

Ferry arrests

Police in Hull arrested 12 Dutch passengers on board a ferry after fights broke out during the journey from Rotterdam. One man was detained in Hull Royal Infirmary with facial injuries.

Piped aboard

Three pipes — 375 gallons — of top quality port, ordered by Admiral Nelson shortly before he left for the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, were sold for £3,200 at Aylsham, Norfolk, yesterday.

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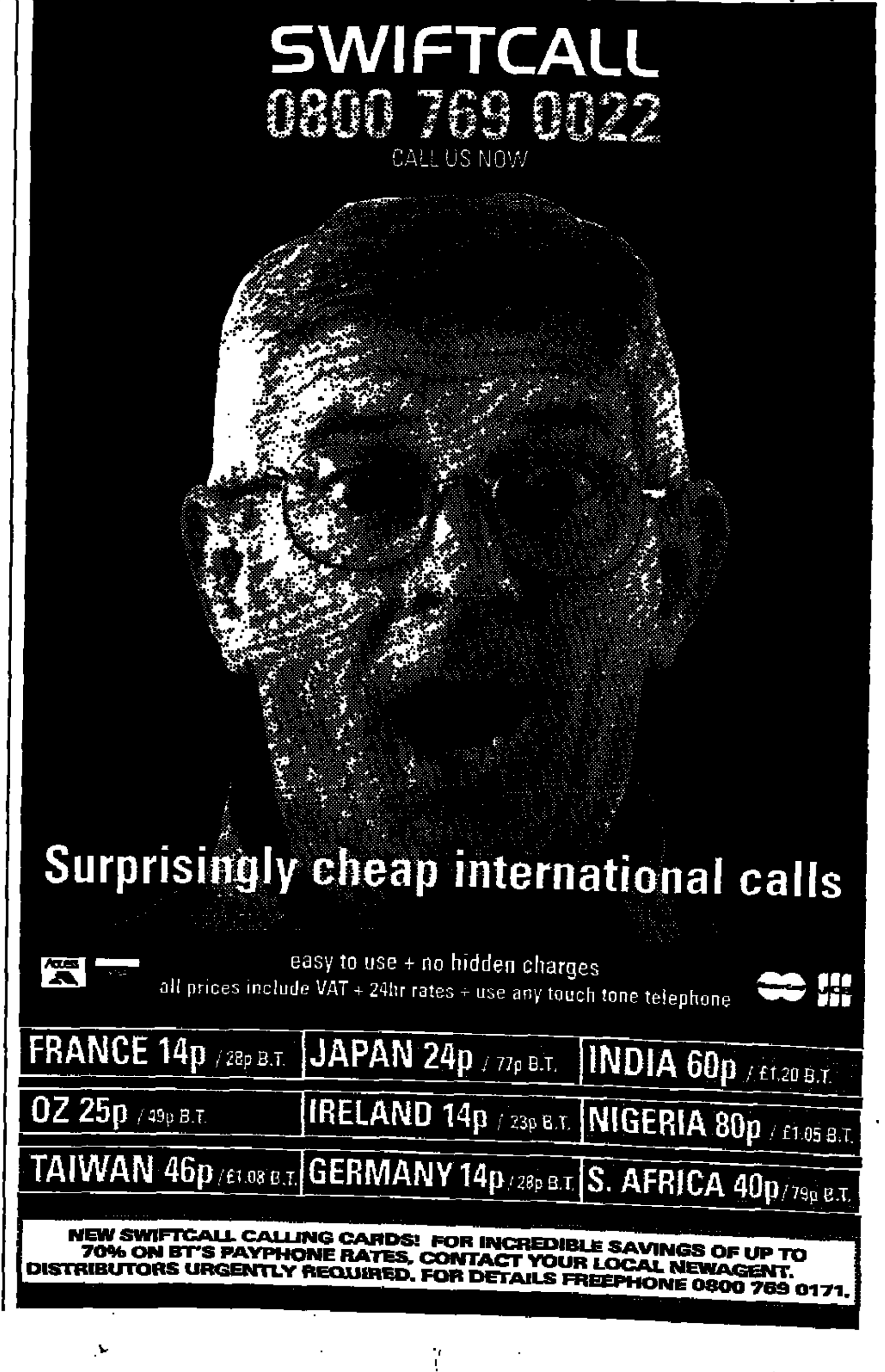

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And they're buying a Steinway to heaven

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER NICHOLLS

The neo-classical decoration of the piano took four years to complete; the carved legs with eagle-winged lions were inspired by a Pompeian marble table

A piano decorated by Queen Victoria's cabinet makers and inscribed with the signatures of famous composers should fetch £800,000, writes **Dalya Alberge**

A STEINWAY admired by the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan and said to be the most artistic piano ever produced is expected to fetch £800,000 at auction.

The 1885 neo-classical masterpiece holds the record price for any piano sold. It was decorated by two leading 19th-century artists and the furniture makers to Queen Victoria.

Leading musicians of the day, as well as society figures, attended glittering soirées: some, including Sir Arthur and Richard Rodgers, the composer of *The Sound of Music*, left their signatures on the inside of the piano lid.

Henry Marquand, the American philanthropist, collector and founding president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, commissioned Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema to direct its decoration. Alma-Tadema, one of the most fashionable artists of the period, was given a "limitless budget" to decorate the music room of Marquand's Madison Avenue mansion.

The design features spectacularly ornate inlay in mother-of-pearl, coral and ivory with classical motifs and figures such as the muses, Apollo and Bacchus. Laurel sprigs, tendrils of Roman acanthus, beaded mouldings and a Grecian lyre are also represented.

Above its keyboard is an exquisitely delicate panel, by Sir Edward Poynter, fashioned as a tablet of an ancient festival. Poynter once described the instrument as "the most beautiful piece of work, both for the design and the workmanship, that I ever saw . . . in fact, I do not believe that anything has ever been done to equal it".

Christie's, which will sell it on November 7, describe it as "a masterpiece of 19th-century neo-classicism . . . the most 'artistic' piano ever produced".

It took Queen Victoria's cabinet makers and upholsterers, Messrs Johnstone, Norman & Co, four years to embellish the Steinway: they displayed it in 1885 in their Bond Street showroom and the Prince and Princess of Wales were the first to see it. Even the colour scheme picked up on Grecian vases. Long since the Madison Avenue building was demolished, a painting the muses of sacred and epic poetry created by Frederic Leighton for the ceiling has been lost and other objects have been dispersed around the world: the Victoria & Albert Museum has a pair of chairs.

The piano, positioned under it, is inlaid with ribbon-tied wreaths bearing the Grecian names of Apollo and the Muses of artistic inspiration. Elaborately carved legs with eagle-winged lions were sacred to Apollo and were inspired by a Pompeian marble table. Greek vases are scattered around the room.

The record price fetched in 1980 was £177,272. The private collector later lent it to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts from 1986 to 1995.

Flag found by Scott was relic of rival expedition

A WHITE Ensign found by Captain Scott on a beach in Antarctica in 1902 sold for £28,750 at Christie's in London yesterday (John Vincent writes).

The flag, picked up by Robert Falcon Scott during his first expedition, in *Discovery*, had been expected to fetch no more than £5,000. It was a relic of Carsten Borchgrevink's British Antarctic Expedition of 1898-99, the first expedition ever to winter on the inhospitable Antarctic mainland.

Borchgrevink and nine explorers were landed by the Southern Cross in February 1899. One man died in October and the ship returned in late January 1900 to collect the survivors.

Scott and his men were the next visitors, in January 1902, and the *Discovery's* second surgeon, Edward Wilson, noted: "The litter around the huts was very interesting and the waste excessive. The huts looked like the centre of a rubbish heap."

In the same sale, a Union Jack that accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his last expedition fetched £14,950. The flag was presented to him by George V in September 1921, only months before the explorer's death on January 5, 1922. The King gave the flag to Shackleton before he set out in the *Quest* on his fourth expedition to the Antarctic.

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Alexandra Frean on why career women quit their jobs for family

FINDLAY KEMBER

The trophies of women's professional advancement are achieved at too high a price, says Dr Terri Apter

PROFESSIONAL women in their forties and fifties are leaving high-powered careers and "downshifting" in a quest for greater satisfaction.

Contrary to the popular perception that the careers of businesswomen take off once they achieve mid-life maturity and their children leave home, new research from Cambridge University shows that this is precisely the time when many decide to step off the career ladder, start their own companies or work part time.

Ambitious women in their twenties and thirties are willing to make personal sacrifices in order to achieve career advancement, believing that once they have reached a certain level of promotion, and once their children are older, the pressures of home and career will diminish and they will find it easier to cope with the stresses of holding down a high-powered job in male-dominated environments.

But according to Dr Terri Apter, a social psychologist and fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, many women, particularly those working in predominantly male professions, simply find that the pressure never eases off, even after two decades.

"When they reach secure positions at the age of 40 and 45, they look back and realise that the trophies of their professional advancement have been achieved at too high a price. They decide they want more personal fulfilment from life," she said.

The findings come after the decision of Brenda Barnes, 43, to quit her job as chief executive of PepsiCo's huge successful North American arm to spend more time with her children. She spent 22 years working her way up the corporate ladder.

Dr Apter's research, which was presented at the Pennell Initiative conference on women's health organised by the University of Manchester and held in London yesterday, identifies four types of women — traditionalists, innovators, expansive women and protesters — who experience these changes in different ways.

Dr Apter, who based her research on interviews with 80 British and American women, believes that the exodus of middle-aged women from professional life is due to psychological and sociological factors and cannot just be accounted for by the fact that many undergo mood changes when they reach the menopause.

"This is not a case of women dropping out because they can't hack it. It is about women deciding to make choices for themselves. In midlife many become determined to make a new start — some set up their own companies, others cut back their hours or switch to new jobs," she said.

Her findings could have far-reaching implications for businesses as they compete in a changing commercial world. Companies are beginning to realise that they will not be able to sustain a varied and valued pool of experienced and highly qualified senior managers if top women continue to leave before they have achieved their full potential.

Val Hammond, chief executive of the Roffey Park management institutute in Horsham, West Sussex, said although successful professional men and women reassessed their lives in their forties, the experiences of women were often more complex.

"A lot of women say, 'Well I'm never going to get to the very top, so continuing here seems meaningless.' It is a great loss to companies," she said. Ms Hammond noted that even where women were offered the very top job in a company, they were more likely than men to turn it down. "Being offered the job is often enough for women because it proves that they could do it and that's all they need," she said.

Campaigners for women's equality are equally concerned that companies will never achieve the critical mass of senior female employees that is needed to change work cultures if the exodus of female bosses continues. Shiela Diplock, director of the Fawcett Society, which campaigns for women's equality, said: "Rather than fight to change the culture, women on the whole are saying, 'This is too much like hard work. It's more pleasurable to go off and make a different life'."

Claire Walmsley, managing director of Boxclever, a communications training company, is typical of the professional women leaving high-powered jobs in big companies to set up on their own. Ms Walmsley, 52, left the BBC to set up her company in 1990.

"It is easy to get demoralised within a large organisation," she said. "You have to fight your corner all the time, rather than just get on with the job. I felt that my talents were not being used properly at the BBC. Now they are and I am much happier."

FOUR TYPES OF WOMEN AND THEIR ATTITUDES TO WORK

■ **Traditionalists:** identify themselves primarily as wives and mothers and believe that their family's needs take priority. Today they often feel marginalised, outmoded, under-powered and obscured by high-profile images of career women.

■ **Innovators:** deliberately set out to be new career women, pioneers in a man's world. Many have children but work hard to change the patterns of marriage and maternity.
At work, many tone down anything that is obviously female about them.
Most stick with their careers throughout the most pressured domestic times, but at midlife their career progress often stalls.
As husbands get promoted and children leave home, they scale down their professional commitments so that they can work in a less pressured environment.

■ **Expansive women:** feel that they lived the first decades of adulthood in a narrow corridor, blocked through lack of confidence and confined by lack of skill or education or self-awareness.
They see midlife as an opportunity to expand their horizons and set new goals. Some go back to school, or to work, or to qualify for new types of work.

■ **Protesters:** try to make up for lost ground after being constrained by responsibilities in early adulthood, such as being a teenage mother, looking after sick parents.

Dr Apter's research was based on in-depth interviews with 80 women in the US and the UK aged between 40 and 55. They were interviewed four times between 1990 and 1994 and again in 1997.

Two faces of Cherie, page 19

All profits will be donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

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Why single life does not begin at fifty

Breaking up is so very hard to do. Philip Delves Broughton finds the older you are the tougher it is

IT MAY have been a tough week for Edwina Currie, the former Tory MP turned novelist turned single 50-something, but the message from Britain's main groups for divorced men and women is that she should get used to it.

Life for women who divorce over the age of 45, they say, can be very tough, even for those cushioned — like Mrs Currie — by wealth.

When she announced on Monday that she was separating from Ray, her husband of 25 years, Mrs Currie was instantly accused of timing her announcement to coincide with the start of a publicity campaign for her latest book, *She's Leaving Home.*

Mrs Currie may, however, end up looking back on this period, when her face is in the papers and her mobile telephone ringing off the hook, with something like affection.

According to divorce councillors, the majority of women who separate from their husbands at 50 find their lives lonelier and much harder to rebuild than those who divorce at a younger age.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics for 1995 show that, whereas 18.6 women in every 1,000 divorce between the ages of 35 and 44, only five in every 1,000 divorce after the age of 45.

Catherine Lee, a councillor for Dignity, an organisation for men and women who find themselves cheated on or divorced, says: "The classic model for trouble in married couples over 45 is for the man to run off with a younger woman when he hits middle age and needs reassurance that he is still attractive.

"For a woman to separate from her husband at that age is much rarer and they are consequently lonelier.

"It is not so much adultery that provokes women to separate as when their husband's behaviour at home becomes unbearable." After 45, it seems, the threshold for "unbearable" moves much higher — making divorce less likely.

Julia Cole, a spokeswoman for Relate, Britain's biggest divorce counselling service, says: "In cases of separation over 45, there is more likely than not someone else involved. It may not be the cause of the separation but will very often be a symptom."

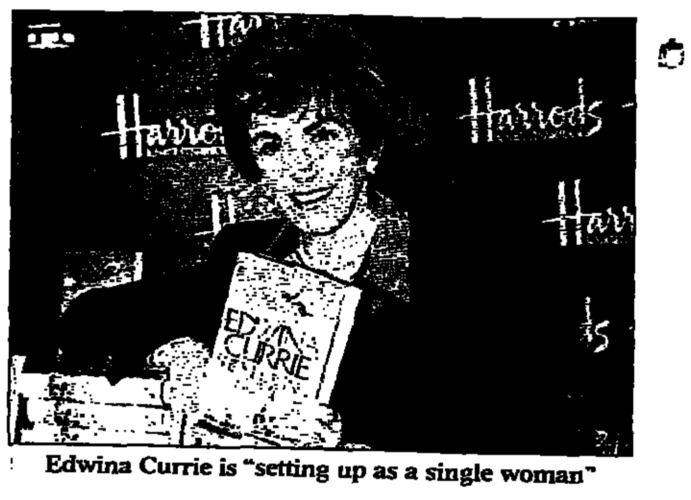
Sheila Diplock, the director of the Fawcett Foundation, which campaigns for equality between men and women, says that one reason successful women of a certain generation end up separating is that their husbands find their success hard to take.

"For men over a certain age, when they come home they want to talk about their work. They have no interest in listening to their wife talking about her work. They start to put her down and, in time, communication between a couple falls apart."

Gillian Gee, 57, separated from her diplomat husband ten years ago. She now works for Oxfam but in the wake of her divorce found both work and social life difficult.

"For some reason, divorced or widowed men are always being set up by their female friends with potential new partners. Separated women over 50 become like widows and the invitations dry up." One woman who works with Mrs Currie says: "Edwina is happier now. Leaving her husband is about her settling down. She has moved on from being an MP and is cutting all kinds of strings and setting up as a single woman living alone in London."

It is a fine picture: Edwina Currie as the post-menopausal Bridget Jones.



Edwina Currie is "setting up as a single woman"

Rabbi says inequality threatens Jewish future

By Helen Rumbelow

A RABBI has given warning of the demise of Anglo-Jewry if its Orthodox wing does not compromise what she says are its sexist ways.

Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick said that women rabbis, whose status is not accepted by the Orthodox, encountered prejudice both comic and sinister. In an address to the Anglo-Jewish Association on Wednesday, Rabbi Tabick risked reopening the rift between Orthodox and Progressive Jewry that followed the death last year of the renowned Reform Jewish leader, Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

Some members of the congregation at the West London Synagogue, where Rabbi Tabick has applied to succeed Dr Gryn as senior rabbi, believe that mixed feelings surrounding her application are the result of prejudice. Rabbi Tabick, an associate rabbi at the synagogue and acting leader, is competing with five men for leadership of the country's biggest Reform synagogue.

Dr Richard Stone, a member of the rabbinic appointments committee, said the synagogue had drawn up a shortlist of six candidates, including Rabbi Tabick. "The prospect that the senior rabbi of the largest synagogue in Britain could be a woman awakens a lot of issues people have about equality," he said. "There are a whole lot of things that need to be balanced."

Rabbi Tabick said: "The Torah is written by men for men in such a way as to contain the power of women," she said, "which strikes us as very unfair." Referring to the difficulties encountered by "chained women" — wives who cannot obtain a *get* (a divorce in Jewish law), Rabbi Tabick said: "It's dreadful that we have to go to English law to solve the problem of inequality in Jewish law."

Some young women in the audience disagreed with Dr Tabick, arguing that being too open would lead to the end of Judaism.

"I understand being scared of freedom," Rabbi Tabick countered, "but to be part of the world you have to grow up, just like Adam and Eve."

Rabbi Tabick became Britain's first woman rabbi in 1975, a year before Julia Neuberger, who was Britain's first woman rabbi to have a congregation.

هكذا من الارشيف

هكذا من الاعلى

Cycling to work from Richmond – via Hell

Damian Whitworth discovers the untold perils of riding furiously on the highway

Cycling nervously: our man in the saddle

IT HAS not been a good week for pedal power. Anthony Adams, 24, was fined under a 150-year-old law for cycling "furiously" through Cambridge and suddenly the urban cycling community is in the spotlight.

People who ride their bicycles through towns are passionate about cycling. So are many of those who have to share the road with them, for rather different reasons.

In the wake of the case of Mr Adams (who may go to jail if he continues to exercise in such a fashion), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents warned that careless cycling was likely to become of increasing concern if efforts to cut the number of cars on the road resulted in more cyclists. The cycling lobby, meanwhile, wants more bicycles on the road.

Just how uneasy is the relationship between pedalers and other road users becomes clear on getting into the saddle. From where I live in Richmond, southwest London, to *The Times* office in Wapping, East London, is about 12 miles. It is hard to imagine a more unpleasant experience than making the journey on a bicycle, which I did for the first time this week. The ride, which took two hours, was so miserable that my bicycle is still in the office, waiting until I can face the prospect of making the return trip.

The first three minutes of spinning across Richmond Green were blissful. The pleasure ended on the A316. I stopped and pulled off the road at some traffic lights to adjust my helmet. A policeman drew up on his motorbike, we exchanged pleasantries and I made a quip about my ordeal ahead. "I've seen more than my fair share of bikes and people parting company with horrible results," he said grimly. "All sides are to blame. Sometimes cars, pedestrians, cyclists. But sadly the roads are just not made for the traffic and the most vulnerable get hit. Cyclists are the most vulnerable."

Cheering stuff. My route took me through the old, winding streets of Barnes where the traffic crawled bumper to bumper and there was barely room to stay on the road. This was after the rush hour but, not for the last time, I hopped off onto the pavement. "You know you shouldn't be on the pavement," remonstrated one woman who was wheeling her baby son in his pushchair. I dismounted, chastened. "You know I was nearly hit by a kid on a bike the other day. He came out of the line at traffic lights and cut over the crossing, clipped the pushchair." Hers was the politest reprimand I had all day.

By the time I crossed Putney Bridge I had been cut up several times by buses, lorries and taxis and was going at a cautious speed that was probably putting me in even greater danger. Zipping onto Cheyne Walk I clipped the wing mirror of a black, open-topped BMW. The owner was not understanding. "You ****** *** ! You shouldn't be on the road, people like you. ****** cyclists!"

I replied in similar vernacular but, as a moped rider in front of me crunched into the bumper of a car, I secretly felt the man in the BMW was right: it was madness.

Particularly mad were the duo on racing bikes, clad in pink lycra, who overtook me as I was pulling around a parked car. The cycling lobby make great play of the lunacies of motorists but some cyclists — in their own minds competing with Chris Boardman — can be equally unthinking. The worst of the fanatical cyclists are often the macho cycle couriers. One raced past me on the approach to Vauxhall Bridge in a manner that could only be described as "furious".

Heading south of the river over Westminster Bridge in search of a quieter route I came across the opposite extreme. An outlandishly dressed trio on huge tricycles towing trailers wobbled ahead so slowly it was difficult, bringing up the rear, not to fall off. The riverside path along the south bank of the Thames provided little relief. No more cars, instead pedestrians and in particular joggers who weaved all over the place and then had the temerity to issue curses because I didn't look where they were going for them. Three, clearly very junior, city wideboys were even more unpleasant. My red helmet apparently qualified me for being a total *****.

By the time I arrived at the Southwark headquarters of the London Cycling Campaign I was not only late, saddle-sore, dripping with sweat and with a face and shirt collar smudged with grime, but convinced that anyone who regularly cycles in central London must be insane, or at very least a few spokes short of a wheel.

Saddle up, page 45

Salvation Army goes to war over rags riches

By Simon de Bruxelles

OXFAM and the Salvation Army are at war over sites for clothes recycling banks.

The Salvation Army is furious after being told that it will have to hand over 77 of its locations around Devon to the Third World charity.

Devon County Council asked the Salvation Army to move its recycling bins from the sites after Oxfam offered ten times more money when they were put out to tender.

The Salvation Army has accused Oxfam of "poaching", and says the move will lead to a major drop in its income from Devon, into which it pumps around £2.75million every year from national funds. It fears owners of private sites on which it also has clothes banks, such as supermarkets, may also come under pressure to take Oxfam banks instead of theirs.

Devon County Council district recycling committee has agreed a three-year contract with Oxfam at 77 sites, mainly at district council-operated car parks, in the first deal of its kind under the competitive tendering process.

Oxfam is believed to have agreed a £101 per ton fee for the contract, in stark contrast with the £8 per ton previously paid by the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army recycling co-ordinator Garth Ward has accused Oxfam of poaching sites which had been running successfully for six years in Devon. He has written to all councillors in the country asking them to prevent his charity from being ordered off council-owned land.

He said money raised by the recycling banks helps fund facilities such as the Salvation Army hostel for the homeless in Devonport, Plymouth, which has recently undergone a £1 million refurbishment. "We initiated this recycling idea in 1991, and we helped the Department of the Environment conduct feasibility studies into the whole clothing recycling idea. I think most people think we have offered an exemplary service.

"I really think that most people see us as the natural choice for this type of operation. We are domestic, and not global — although we do send clothes abroad. To me it would make more sense for us to work together rather than them poaching our sites."

But Oxfam spokeswoman Anne Bissell denied the charity was poaching. "Everyone was invited to tender for the 77 sites and we were successful," she said.

Councillor Marguerite Shapland, chairman of the joint recycling committee, said: "The Salvation Army, with whom we have had an informal agreement for a number of years, was invited to tender for this contract and I understand its disappointment."

MICHAEL POWELL

The farm at North Sea Camp Prison near Boston, Lincolnshire, was commended by the Inspectorate in its report on prison industries

Designer babies warning to parents

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

PARENTS may be able to choose their baby's eye colour, or to programme out hereditary baldness "within our lifetime", the scientist behind Dolly, the cloned sheep, said yesterday.

Dr Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Research Institute in Edinburgh said that there was already "a significant minority of people" — mainly in the US — willing to consider exploiting such cosmetic possibilities.

Speaking at the British Veterinary Association's annual congress in Edinburgh, Dr Wilmut said the strong ethical climate which surrounded issues of reproduction in Europe, Asia and Australasia did not exist in the US.

Calling for an ethical debate on the use of the new technologies, he said they offered a cure for children with genetic defects but also led to the possibility of heading down "the slippery slope" towards designer children. "It is important for science to think about these very difficult ethical dilemmas soon, because some people are already beginning to think about it," he said.

Treasury rules 'hold back jail industries'

JAIL workshops and farms should be freed from archaic Treasury rules and regulations that hold back attempts to generate income, the Chief Inspector of Prisons said yesterday.

Sir David Ramsbotham said prison industries should be allowed to run as profit-making enterprises rather than paying back any income they earn into central funds. He said that at Ford Open Prison in West Sussex, which has workshops making products from security gates to demonstration dummies for the Fire Service, work opportunities had been lost because of the rules.

Allowing a more entrepreneurial approach would encourage prison governors and staff to develop more imaginative work opportunities and do much to alleviate unemployment in prisons.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Stephen Fry

STEPHEN Fry, whose public face is internationally well known, reveals his private face in this *Times*/Dillons forum, on Tuesday October 7. He will be in conversation with Nicholas Wapshott. The discussion will cover his days at boarding school, the beatings he survived, the love he felt, the misery he suffered, his time in prison and his subsequent highly successful career. The forum, which marks the publication of his autobiography, *Moab is my Washpot* (Hutchinson, £16.99) will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted in sign language.

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As Winnie Mandela faces South Africa's Truth Commission, Katiza Cebekhulu – the 'missing witness' in her trial for the kidnap and assault of Stompie Moeketsie – has at last been able to tell his terrifying account of what really happened.

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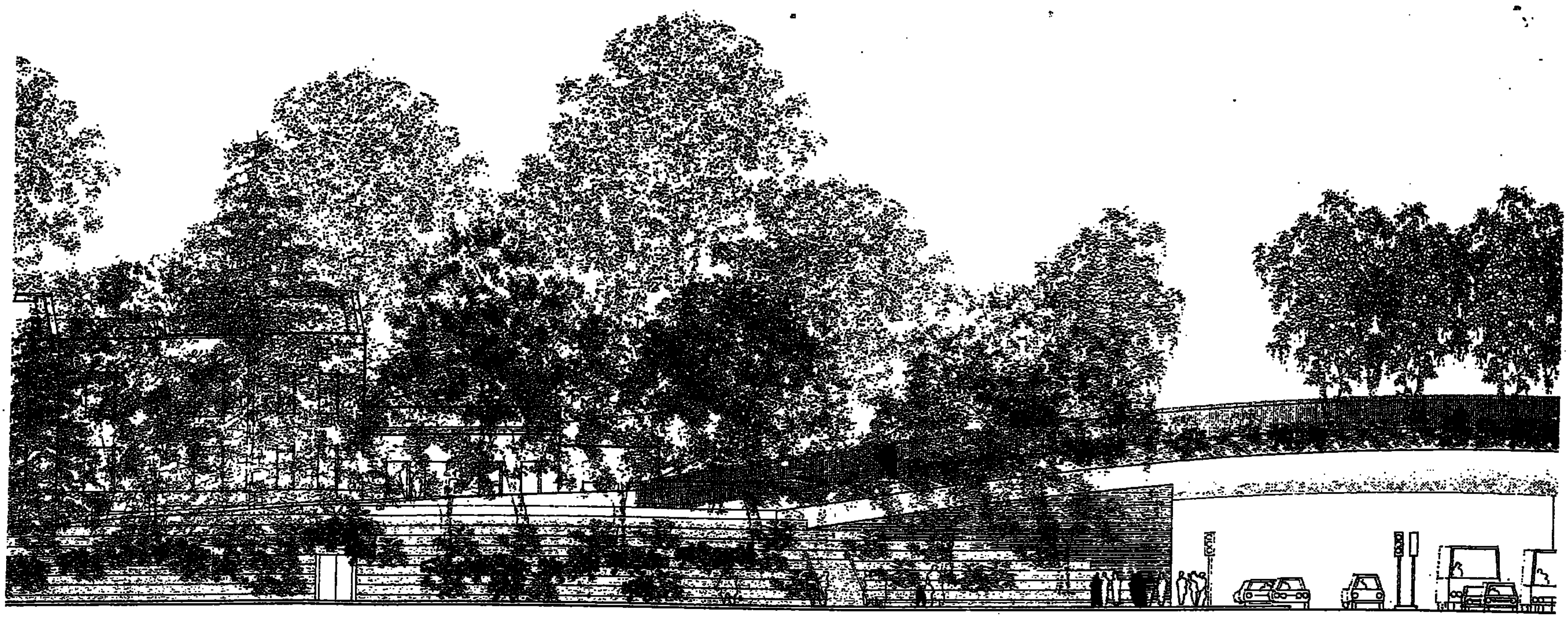


Green architect wins approval for a bridge of trees

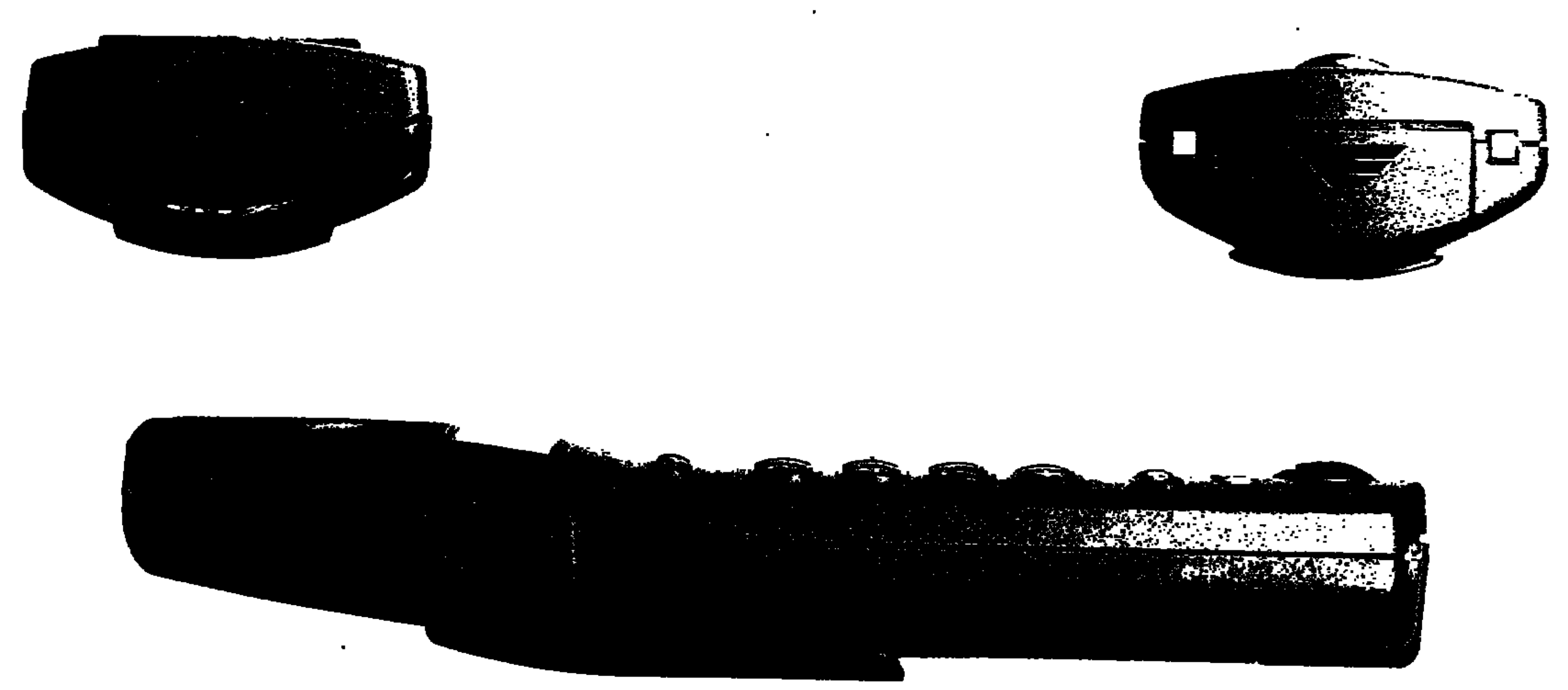
Alan Hamilton on a novel proposal by Piers Gough, left, to perk up a park

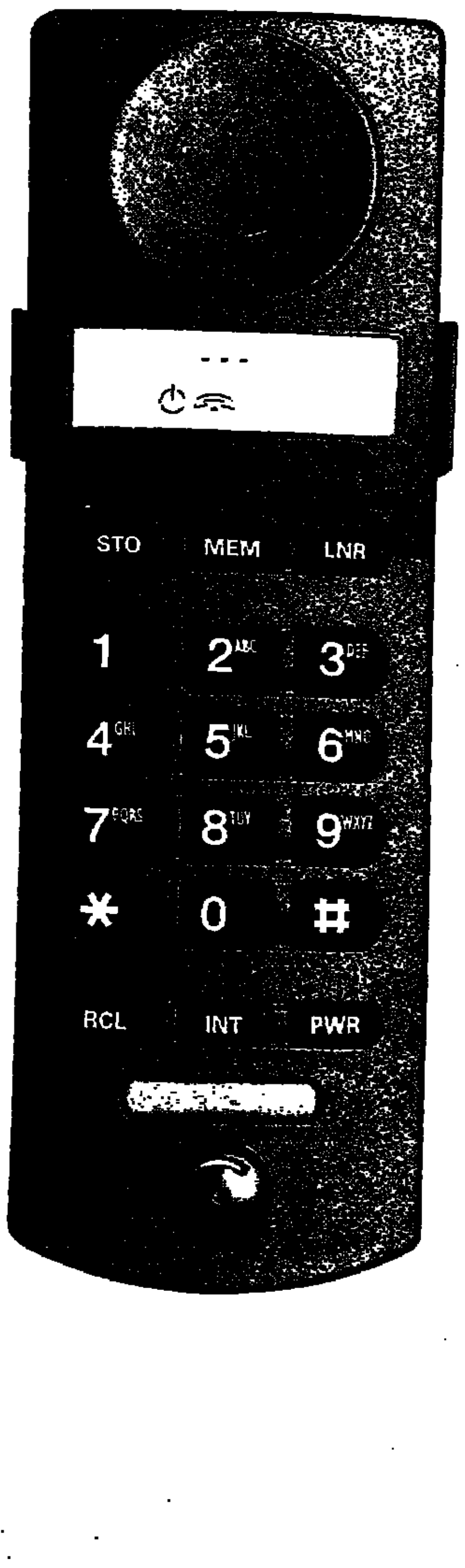
If there is one colour that predominates in the work of the architect Piers Gough, it's green. Two years ago he produced a revolutionary design for a public lavatory in Westbourne Grove, Notting Hill, West London. In green glazed brick, it incorporated a florist's kiosk. What was once an unlovely necessity became an admired item of street furniture.

Now Gough has been given the green light — and £12 million of Millennium Commission lottery money — to build a green bridge. It will be a key element in the revitalisation of Mile End Park, a 90-acre lung created in 1947 to give breathing space to half a million residents of the East End of London.

Tower Hamlets Council has given planning permission for the bold and novel green bridge, to be built of steel, earth and trees, which will at last unite the northern and southern halves of the park, until now separated by the five lanes of the busy Mile End Road.

"The idea is that the park wins out over the road, and that its two halves are seamlessly united: you will have the sense of the park crossing the road, and if you are driving





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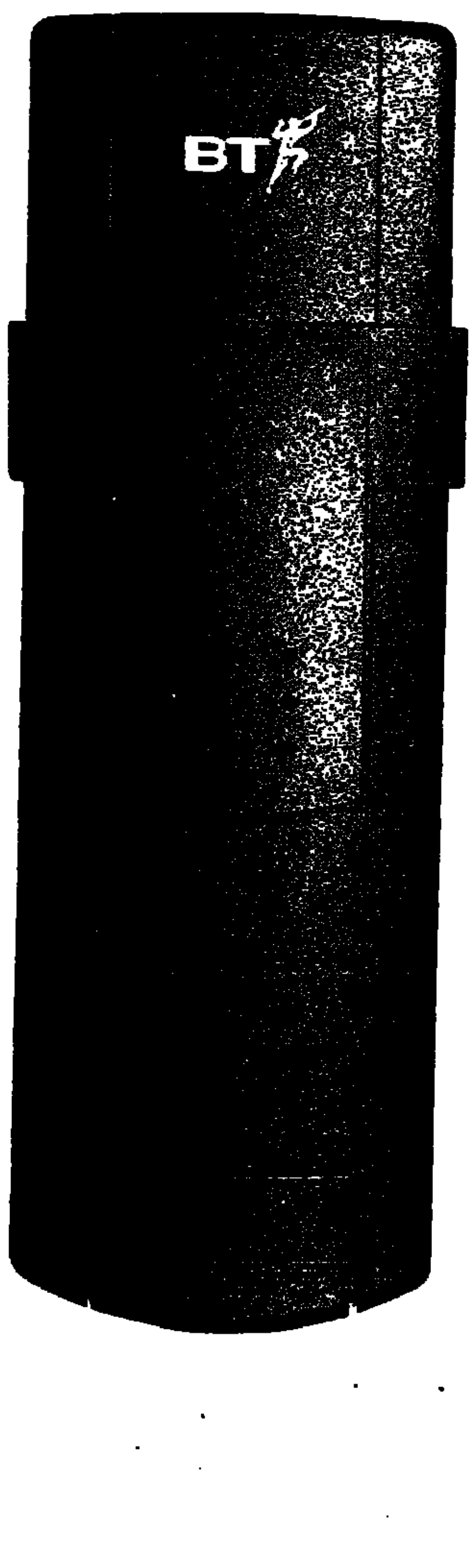

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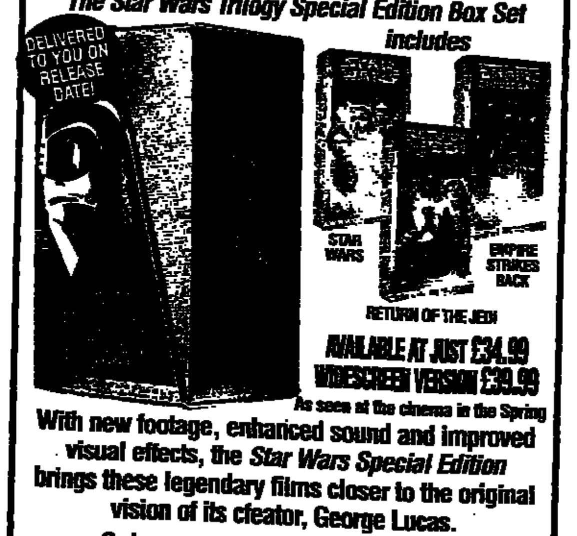

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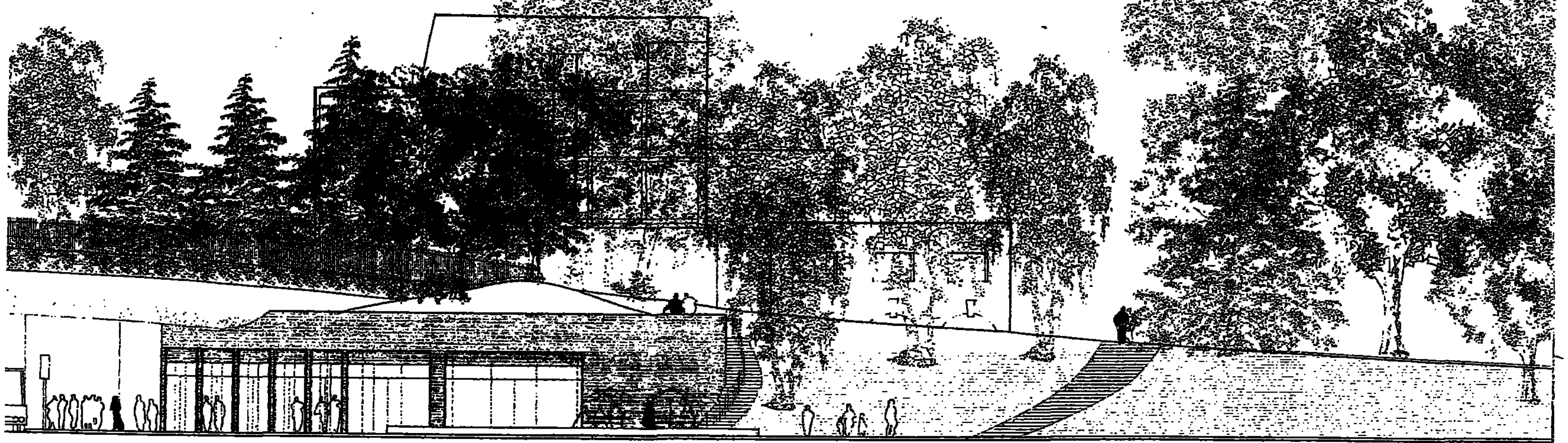

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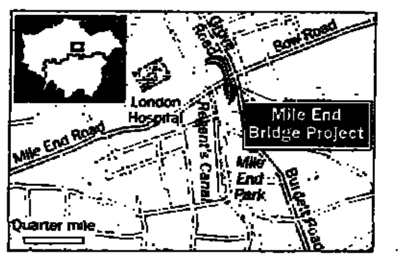

An artist's impression of how Piers Gough's bridge of steel, earth and trees will look, top. The structure will unite the north side of Mile End Park, above left, and its south side

you will go under a whole line of trees growing out of the bridge," Gough said yesterday. Under the bridge there are plans to install shops and cafés.

The architect, who lives locally, is mildly surprised to have got away with it. "There is a great fear of all developers in London; people will oppose almost anything. It's a British trait: 'We don't like the future; we are against it and we are against development'," Gough said.

Not everyone is happy, of course, and the unhappiest of all is Guardian Angels Roman Catholic primary school, which fears it will be engulfed by the bridge right alongside its 100-year-old premises. John Holland, the school governor who has led objections to the bridge, said: "The school will be isolated from the rest of the park. Our only entrance will be by a narrow alley, causing worry for the safety of more than 200 pupils and staff, and with a 7m bridge abutment right alongside us we will be in permanent shadow: psychological if not actual." The school also fears that the bridge, like many other urban bridges, will become a magnet for drunks, drug-takers and others particularly undesirable outside a school gate.

Other parts of the scheme have been more widely welcomed. Mile End Park runs alongside the last stretch of the Grand Union canal on its way to the Thames at Limehouse Basin, and is a prime site for recreation. But a park can no longer be just a park: it has to be an outdoor leisure centre. In matters of *rus in urbe*, man must control nature.

The £24 million being lavished on the park will pay for, among other amenities, a man-made mountain to provide views of Limehouse, three wind generators, a running track, art pavilion and an amphitheatre. The bridge should be completed time for Tower Hamlets's Hogmanay party in the park to welcome the new millennium, and will doubtless shelter those too wobbly and green to make it home afterwards.

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US finds Fat Ladies hard to swallow

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

MERICA has greeted the rival of *Two Fat Ladies* with e polite, nervous smile of meone offered an unidentifiable, pungent forkful of a reign cuisine.

While some have hailed the but of Jennifer Paterson and arissa Dickson Wright on ble television's Food Netork as the birth of two new lt stars, others have reacted if a wormy apple has been rried into Eden.

That is partly because the io, in their tour of the bigne talk shows, have portyed themselves as missionies of flavour, accusing nerican prudishness of takg the taste out of food and e fun out of meals.

On the question of food, at least, the Two Fat Ladies have a point. Outside the main cities and ethnic restaurants, American food can be astoundingly bland despite the bounty of ingredients available. Unflavoured by pepper, garlic or wine — and increasingly, ungraced by salt or butter — it is often downed with a glass of milk.

In some quarters the Fat Ladies have won firm fans. The *Boston Globe* gave the "unlikely cult figures" a rave review. The programme "is an Anglophile's delight, with lots of beautiful scenery, quaint atmosphere, and Paterson and Wright speaking in the poshest of British accents", although it says the pair are "not what you'd call genteel". In Canada, the *Toronto Star* dubbed the show "weird and wacky", *adding: "Seriously, folks, these gals can cook".*

They have one trend in their favour: vastly overweight people are now so common in America that fat has become acceptable. But inevitably the pair have grated on the nerves of the health-obsessed part of America. *The Wall Street Journal* reported with apparent horror that "Ms Paterson, who shares her partner's girth, hosts part of the half-hour show with a cigarette hanging from her mouth".

Paterson: her smoking on camera horrifies

Leading article, page 23
Vision, page 13

THE CAT IN THE HAT AND DR SEUSS ENTERPRISES

A drawing from *The Cat in the Hat*, by Dr Seuss

Characters cast for word-play wizard

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S
NEW YORK

"LUKE LUCK likes lakes. Luke's duck likes lakes. Luke Luck licks lakes. Luke's duck licks lakes. Duck takes licks in lakes Luke Luck likes. Luke Luck takes licks in lakes duck likes."

Only one man, Dr Seuss, could have composed these lively, nonsensical, compulsively rhythmic words, this rascally doggerel on which generations of English-speaking children have nourished their earliest imagination. The words are from *Fox in Socks*, one of 47 children's books written and illustrated by Dr Seuss (real name: Theodor Geisel), hundreds of millions of which have been sold around the world, reaping a fat fortune for Random House, his New York publishers. He died in 1991.

Now the trustees of the public library in Springfield, Massachusetts, Dr Seuss's home town, have unveiled plans for a memorial to him, consisting of a garden full of bronze statues depicting his weird and wacky characters. There will be the Cat in the Hat (and his sidekicks, Thing One and Thing Two), Yertle the Turtle, Sam-I-Am (from *Green Eggs and Ham*), Horton the elephant, the Grinch, the Yook and the Zook. Oh yes, and the Nerd too — Dr Seuss invented the word. The garden, to be completed by 1999, will cost $6 million (£3.7 million) and the sculptures will be made by Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, his stepdaughter. Dr Seuss never had children, once saying famously to an audience of parents: "You make 'em, I amuse 'em."

The sculptress says: "I want people to leave the memorial taking Dr Seuss's work a little more seriously. I think a lot of people take Dr Seuss lightly, saying it's fluff, it's cute. But if you sit down and read his books carefully, they have so much more to them."

Geisel: cult following

Ms Dimond-Cates, however, has no need to worry. My own juvenile fantasies were fired most effectively by Dr Seuss, as was my earliest love of words, and his masterpiece, *The Sleep Book*, would be on my desert-island bookshelf. Some take him very seriously indeed. The writer James Traub, an acute observer of American life among New York's 40-somethings, describes Dr Seuss as "a great folk poet". Over dinner at his home last week, he told me: "If I could only choose one author whom I could read aloud to my seven-year-old son, it would probably be Dr Seuss."

Not surprisingly, a whole Seuss cult has emerged, dedicated to analysing his every word for morals and messages. Spare the Seuss, I say, and you will spoil the child.

☐ *A WEE snippet from my spies at the United Nations. Robin Cook, who did not endear himself to journalists in New York by snapping at those who asked him awkward questions, seems to have spent most of his time at the General Assembly working on his speech for next week's Labour Party conference.*

The Foreign Secretary's labours, however, were interrupted rudely by news from Saudi Arabia. A source said: "The whole thing was jolly inconvenient. All Mr Cook really wanted to do was to polish his oration for Brighton. And then this damned nurse business happened at just the wrong time!"

Mr Cook is normally even-tempered, but these interruptions made him rather crabby. I think you might say he is rather nervous about his speech.

Fruity English tastes the best

THERE is no escape from them. Their faces are everywhere, and their accents, too. Plummy-voiced, London demotic, rasping Glaswegian, gritty Lancashire, singsong Welsh, even the odd Ulsterman sounding like John Cole.

British journalists have never been in heavier demand as television "talking heads". My telephone rings at least thrice a day, with requests from Fox, NBC, ABC, CBS — in fact, from every bit of the TV alphabet soup except, alas, MTV — to talk about Princess Diana (still), devolution, and now, floggings for nurses in Saudi Arabia.

I have resisted their blandishments so far. But my more dashing colleagues, more silver-tongued than I, have this last month built handsome second careers. The American viewer, it seems, is likely to take a British voice more seriously than any other sort. I asked a chum in broadcasting why that is. "We call it 'news through the marmalade filter'," he replied. "Your accents just seem to taste so much better."

Liberty: big let-down

Feel free to forgo Liberty

GIVE me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, and I shall make them feel infinitely worse.

This, in effect, is the message put about by the Statue of Liberty today, now surely the grottiest tourist site in New York. Visitors to the verdigris-complexioned lady are packed into grimy boats in Manhattan and then shipped to Liberty Island.

There, they sometimes have to wait for up to three hours just to reach the entrance. They are harassed constantly by vendors, commercial photographers and pushy superintendents.

There are few lavatories, so 22 flights of stairs (and back) must often be negotiated with a fullish bladder.

The signs are misleading and people get lost. And once on top, on the statue's crown, they get barely a minute's glimpse of New York before they are hustled back down again. I now give visitors some simple advice: don't go to the Statue of Liberty. Have a few martinis instead, and then look at the postcard.

Winnie Mandela to give open evidence at truth commission

From Sam Kiley in Johannesburg

WINNIE Madikizela-Mandela yesterday won the right to testify in public at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to try to clear her name. She has been implicated there in 18 cases of rights abuses, including eight murders, by amnesty applicants.

Mrs Mandela, 63 yesterday, appeared before the commission for the first time in secret hearings throughout the day. She was questioned about allegations made by amnesty applicants that she ordered assaults, kidnappings and murders during a township reign of terror in the 1980s.

The hearings had been held in camera to protect other witnesses, who say they fear for their lives after agreeing to give evidence allegedly damaging to the former wife of President Mandela. She is the most senior official of the African National Congress (ANC) to appear before the commission, hearing amnesty applications for apartheid-era crimes.

But when she takes the stand publicly on November 1, she may cause panic among senior ANC members already rocked by allegations that they connived in covering up her part in the killing of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei in 1987 and other human rights abuses. The open hearing could not come at a worse time for the ANC: its party congress is in mid-December and Mrs Mandela has been nominated for the deputy presidency.

One of her accusers, Jerry Richardson, was convicted of the murder in 1991 and received a life term. Mrs Mandela was acquitted but convicted of kidnapping and the assault of four youths. She was fined £1,500 on appeal.

Dumisa Ntsebeza, who heads investigations for the commission, said: "She is here because we believe ... she is able to assist the commission in elucidating some or all of the issues found in the subpoena."

Leading article, page 23

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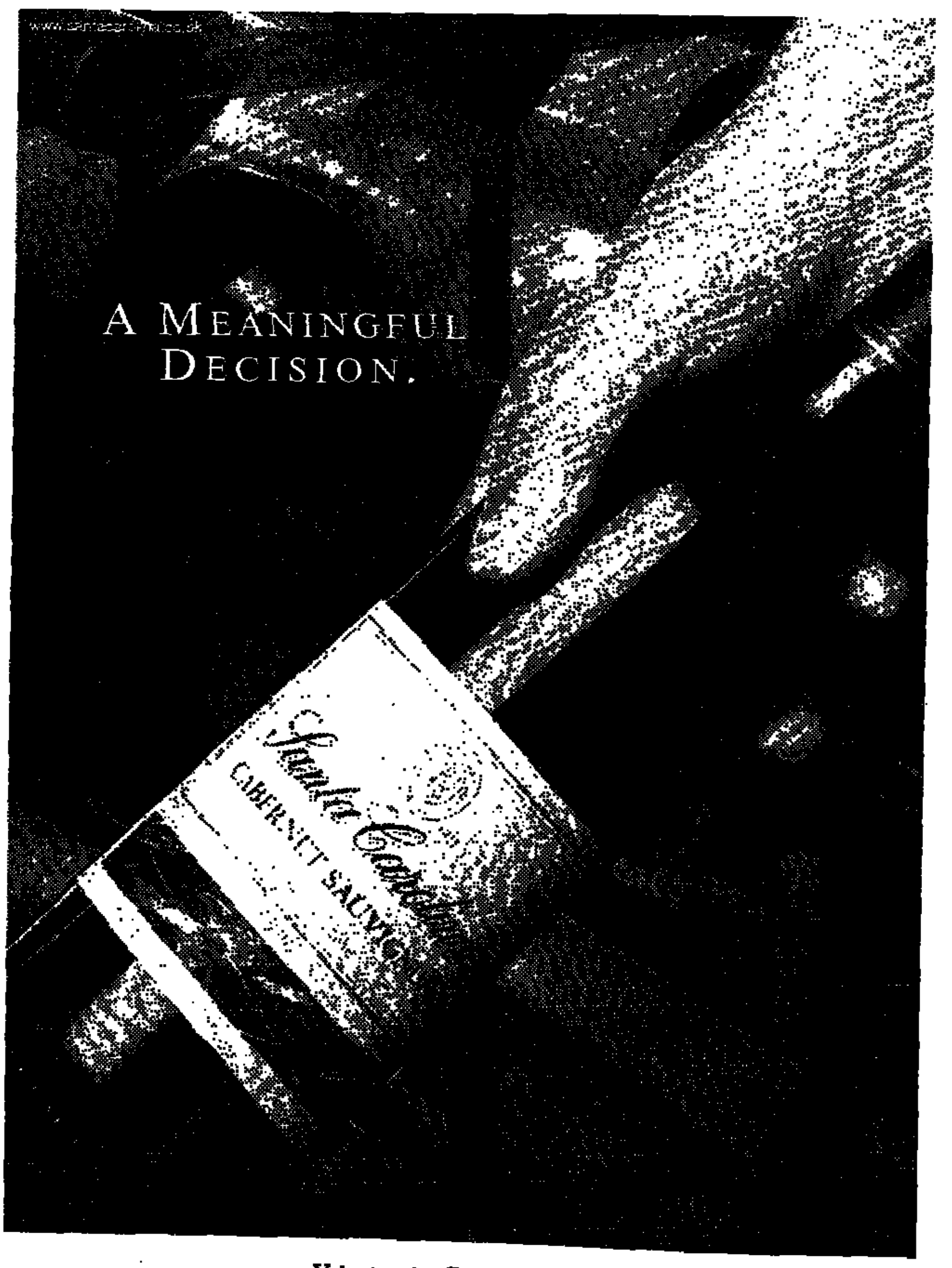
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Plane crash in Indonesia haze leaves 234 dead

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

ALL 234 people on board an Indonesian airliner were killed when it crashed in thick haze in a ravine in Sumatra yesterday afternoon.

It is unclear whether the blanket of smog, which has virtually turned day into night over much of South-East Asia, had a direct bearing on the accident. Haryanto Dhanutirto, the Transport Minister, said visibility at the crash site was poor at less than 400 yards.

A source at Garuda, the national airline, said: "It could well have been the haze but we don't know yet." The accident, involving an Airbus A300, is the worst aviation disaster in Indonesia.

Airports in the country and the region have been forced to close in recent weeks because of the haze caused by the clearing and burning of tracts of land in southern Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo. Yesterday's accident came as the Government warned plantation owners and their contract staff to bring the fires under control.

The Airbus crashed into a ravine near a heavily forested mountain 30 miles from Medan, its destination in northern Sumatra, shortly after 1.30pm local time. Air traffic controllers lost contact four minutes before it was due to land. The airport was closed later. Among the dead were eight foreigners, two Americans and six Japanese.

Sergeant Ari Suriono, of the north Sumatra police, said: "Witnesses told me the plane was flying very low and hit a tree. It then crashed to the ground and caught fire." He said visibility in the area had worsened during the day.

A source at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport said she heard that the aeroplane, Flight GA152, crashed because it had run out of fuel. "I heard that the pilot could not find the runway in the haze and, while circling, ran out of petrol."

As the haze continued to pollute the region, Malaysia yesterday cancelled flights to five of its airports, including the resorts of Penang and Pulau Langkawi. Reports also said that tourists have started cancelling visits to South-East Asia.

Relief firefighters dispatched by Malaysia to help to fight the inferno in Sumatra are not expected to see any action until next week. Japan, Australia and France have offered to send equipment and experts to Indonesia.

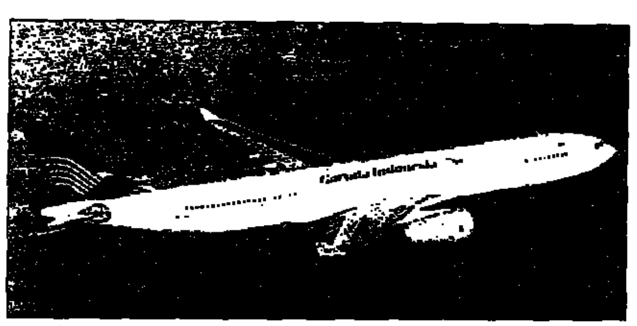
But their task is expected to be arduous as Syarifuddin Baharsjah, the Indonesian Agriculture Minister, confirmed that the peat under the burning forest had caught fire. One Indonesian fireman, fighting blazes in Jambi province in southern Sumatra, said: "Now that the peat is alight, there is no way we can put the fires out. We can just try to control them. Only prolonged heavy rain can put them out."

But much of Indonesia is in the grip of the worst drought in 50 years. The wet season usually begins in September but no heavy rain is forecast until mid-November.

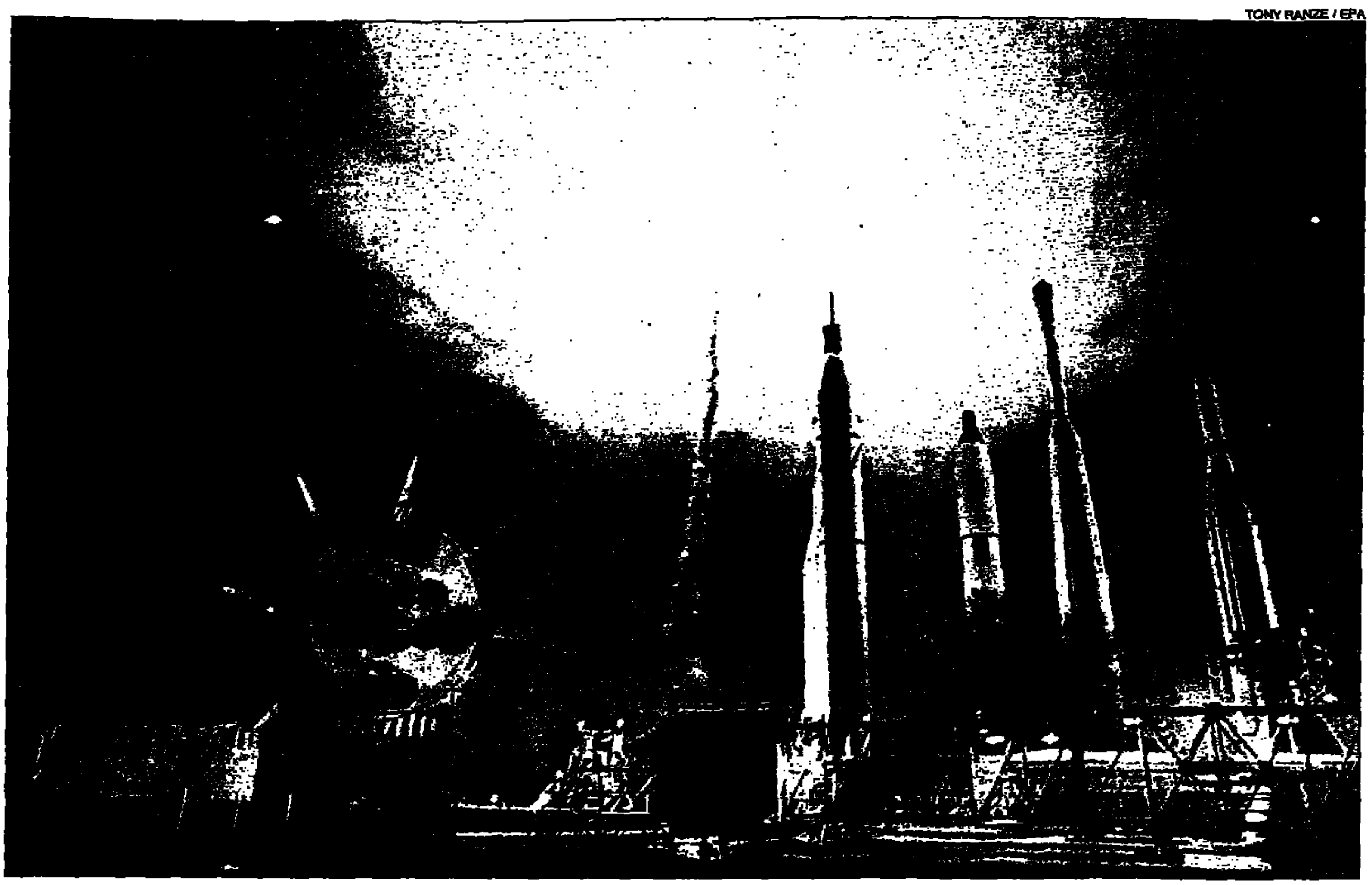
Shifting winds in the region yesterday caused the haze to thicken in Sumatra and peninsular Malaysia and lift slightly in Borneo. In Kuala Lumpur, the air pollutant index reached a record high yesterday. Breathing the smog in the Malaysian capital is equivalent to smoking 20-30 cigarettes a day.

Many Westerners are already leaving the city. Hundreds of American, Canadian, Australian and French residents received a formal briefing on the smog. A British High Commission spokesman said British expatriates were not yet being advised to leave but he added that he knew of many who were making preparations to return home.

☐ **Paris:** It will take between 30 and 500 years to restore ideal conditions for tree growth after a fire on the scale now ravaging the jungle of Indonesia, said Jean-Guy Bertault, a French expert on the forests of Asia. *(AFP)*



A Garuda Airbus, similar to the one that crashed



TONY RANZE / EPA

The *Atlantis* shuttle blasts off for its rendezvous with Mir, illuminating Nasa's "Rocket Garden" at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida

American shuttle heads for Mir rendezvous

"Rabbit's foot ... check. Lucky heather ... check."

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE *Atlantis* space shuttle is expected to dock with the beleaguered Mir Russian station this evening after blasting off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

The shuttle, carrying a crew of seven, is delivering David Wolf, an American replacement for Michael Foal, the British-born astronaut on board the Russian station.

Mir was 250 miles above Germany, on its 66,278th orbit in more than 11 years, when the *Atlantis* countdown clocks hit zero. Despite being so close to the Earth's atmosphere, the shuttle and the station were taking almost two days to synchronise their orbits.

Dr Foale, who arrived on Mir in May, was spending yesterday discussing last-minute preparations with Nasa before returning to Earth in ten days' time. During four months on board, the astronaut has endured a nearly disastrous collision of Mir with a cargo ship, repeated computer crashes and numerous other failures that prompted calls by Congress to abandon the mission.

However, Mr Wolf appeared relaxed before blast-off, shouting "Happy New Year, folks" — the next time he will be on American soil will be January next year — en route to the launch pad.

His mother, making light of the possible danger of his mission, jokingly added: "I hope David remembers his screwdriver to help fix Mir."

Mr Wolf's four-month orbital tour aboard Mir was given the go-ahead because the mission poses no "unnecessary peril", Daniel Goldin, the Nasa administrator, said on Thursday.

Mikhail Sinelshikov, the head of the Russian space agency's directorate for manned programs, told the Interfax news agency that Nasa's decision showed the United States was interested in a sensible working partnership in space exploration.

At Cape Canaveral, Frank Culbertson, the veteran shuttle commander who heads Nasa's shuttle-Mir programme, said: "We are irretrievably bound together in space now. When you make a commitment to a partner, you stick with them through good and bad."

The crew included two would-be Mir residents: Scott Parazynski, ruled out for a long duration mission because he is too tall, and Wendy Lawrence, who was dropped because she was too short. Also on board were Jean-Loup Chrètien, a French astronaut, and Vladimir Titov, a Russian cosmonaut.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Hong Kong bans English in class

Hong Kong: The Government here has decided to banish English as the main teaching language in schools, and head teachers who refuse could be jailed. The education department said yesterday that schools will begin by teaching 12-year-olds in Cantonese Chinese from next year, despite the opposition of many parents.

Proposed special ordinances allow for recalcitrant head teachers to be jailed or fined in extreme cases, while their schools may face sanctions. Those with 85 per cent or more students capable of learning in English will be exempted.

By 2000 students will be able to learn Mandarin Chinese, which will become part of the Certificate of Education examination, a university entrance requirement. *(AFP)*

Duma vote defies Kremlin

Moscow: The State Duma, the Russian parliament's lower house, refused to remove a critic of President Yeltsin as head of its defence committee. The Communist-dominated chamber voted narrowly to retain General Lev Rokhlin, who was ousted from the pro-government party Our Home Is Russia this month after opposing Kremlin plans for military reform and calling for Mr Yeltsin's removal. *(Reuters)*

Dylan plays hard to get

Rome: The Pope, who has never been to a rock concert before, will attend a performance today by Bob Dylan, left (Richard Owen writes). The singer, on arrival in Italy yesterday, ran into accusations that he had "gone to ground" 40 miles from Bologna, the concert venue, and was avoiding church officials gathered to greet him. Dylan is the final star attraction in the nine-day World Eucharistic Congress.

Yeltsin signs religion Act

Moscow: President Yeltsin yesterday signed a law on religious freedoms in Russia, despite a last-minute US attempt to persuade Moscow that it was discriminatory. Supporters of the Bill say it will clamp down on the dangerous sects which poured into Russia after the collapse of communism. Opponents say it violates the constitution and discriminates against conventional minorities. *(Reuters)*

Cairo blast 'isolated case'

New York: German experts have concluded that an attack on a tourist bus in Cairo, in which ten people were killed, was probably an isolated case and not linked to terrorists, Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, said. He said Saber Abu al-Ola, right, the key suspect in the September 18 attack in which nine Germans were killed outside the Egyptian Museum, was not thought to be involved with a terror group. *(AFP)*

Spot drug tests for pupils

Miami: A south Florida school board has voted to subject pupils in the Miami area to random drug testing (David Adams writes). From January, children will be picked out of class and tested for marijuana, cocaine, opiates, barbiturates and amphetamines. The tests will be conducted by a private agency. Parental consent will be required.

Spielberg's dream factory still chases magic formula

Steven Spielberg, left, hopes the nightmare will end with his company's new blockbuster, says

Giles Whittell

THE reputation of Hollywood's most ambitious new studio since the 1920s hangs in the balance this weekend as Dreamworks SKG's first film opens in 2,300 American cinemas, three years after investors pumped in $2.7 billion (£1.7 billion) on the strength of its founders' names.

Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen will be watching the box-office fortunes of *The Peacemaker* even more nervously than their backers. The $50 million thriller stars George Clooney and Nicole Kidman, but was directed by a newcomer and brings the studio to the big screen a year behind schedule.

The delay is the least of the company's woes, its birth pains having been an object lesson in the hurdles facing any who dare to try breaking into an American entertainment industry increasingly dominated by six conglomerates, including Time-Warner, the Walt Disney Company and Viacom, owner of Paramount Pictures.

Four out of five television series made by Dreamworks' television division have failed. The most expensive album produced by its recording arm, George Michael's *Older*, was a disappointment in America. Bold plans for an interactive CD-ROM division overestimated the market's interest, and bolder ones for the studio's permanent home have so far created more dreams than works. Thwarted by quarrelling property developers and angry environmentalists, bulldozers have yet to break ground on a prime West Los Angeles coastal site.

Despite lacking its own premises, Dreamworks has earmarked roughly $1 billion of its start-up capital, experts believe, hiring 1,500 employees, many of whom are working in temporary offices. It has also spent heavily on exclusive production deals with such directors as Robert Zemeckis, a Spielberg family friend, and Scott Hicks, the Australian who made *Shine*.

The success of Dreamworks' feature film division depends overwhelmingly, however, on Spielberg, the most commercially successful director of all time. "What people are investing in is what he knows about the culture, and has known now for 20 years, that no one else has ever figured out," Neal Gabler, the distinguished writer on Hollywood, said when the studio was founded.

It has not reassured his backers — among them the Seattle software billionaire Paul Allen — that Spielberg has spent much of the past three years in a creative hiatus after making *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List* back-to-back in 1992 and 1993.

Returning to work last year, he made *The Lost World*, *Jurassic Park*'s blockbuster sequel — but for Universal Studios. He helped to produce this summer's other megahit, *Men In Black*, though for his own production company, Amblin Entertainment. The two films have brought in more than $470 million so far in America alone.

The Peacemaker is expected to do solid but not spectacular business. Notable chiefly for unveiling Dreamworks' whimsical logo — a vintage Spielbergian image of a boy fishing in clouds from a crescent moon — it has disappointed critics with its formulaic plot about terrorists stealing nuclear weapons. "A dull debut," *Time* magazine called it.

Spielberg's first film for his own studio will be *Amistad*, based on the true story of a 19th-century slave ship mutiny. Though already the object of Oscar gossip three months before its Christmas release, it is unlikely to be Dreamworks' first hit; its director said recently that its message of social justice mattered more to him than its profits.

Meanwhile, the brainchild of three of Hollywood's most fertile minds is becoming the butt of boardroom humour. At a Rocky Mountain retreat for America's entertainment elite this summer, the booby prize was a Dreamworks doll. Wind it up, the host explained, and nothing happens.

Will it run and run? Nicole Kidman and George Clooney in *The Peacemaker*

Mafia 'beast' and henchmen get life for killing judge

FROM FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO

AN ITALIAN court yesterday jailed the Mafia's "Boss of Bosses", Salvatore "Toto" Riina, and 23 associates for life for the 1992 murder of the anti-Mafia prosecutor, Giovanni Falcone.

The court gave lesser terms to another six defendants and found nine others not guilty of killing Falcone, his wife, Francesca Morvillo, and three bodyguards.

Only one of the convicted gangsters, Pietro Aglieri, was present in the heavily fortified bunker set up as a courtroom in the city prison of Caltanissetta in central Sicily, when the trial began in February 1995. The court was presided over by Judge Carmelo Zuccaro.

Riina was nicknamed "the beast" because of his cruelty. The other 23 included Nitto Santapaola, his former lieutenant, Bernardo Provenzano, still on the run, Leoluca Bagarella and Aglieri, who set the 1,100 lb bomb in the Falcone attack on the outskirts of Palermo. The murders horrified Italy and sparked a crackdown against the Mafia. This led to the arrest of several of its top members, including Riina, who is already serving nine life sentences.

The court also ordered all 24 to be kept in solitary confinement for 18 months and stripped them of all family rights. They were also ordered to pay 3 billion lire (£1.07 million) to the Government and to the murdered people's relatives as part of a civil suit in the trial.

Along with 24 life sentences, the court gave more lenient jail terms to another six Mafia men who helped the prosecutors. Giovanni Brusca, the most senior mafioso captured in the past year, got a 26-year sentence. He admitted using the remote-control device which triggered the Falcone explosion and destroyed half a mile of motorway.

Defence lawyers vowed to appeal against the verdicts, but prosecutors expressed their satisfaction. "This is an historic verdict, closing an historic trial. The court met all our requests except for some details," said Paolo Giordano, who had sought 32 life sentences.

Lawyers representing the families of those who were killed said they were satisfied with the result.

Relatives of Falcone and the bodyguards attended the last of the 107 hearings of the trial, along with about 100 journalists and lawyers.

"Today it is a day of great pain as no one can give us back our beloved relatives," Maria Falcone, sister of the murdered judge, said. "But it is also an important day because those who killed Giovanni will finally pay."

Arafat answers critics with Hamas purge

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT'S security forces yesterday launched a sweeping crackdown on Islamic militants and their social infrastructure, as has repeatedly been demanded by Israel and America.

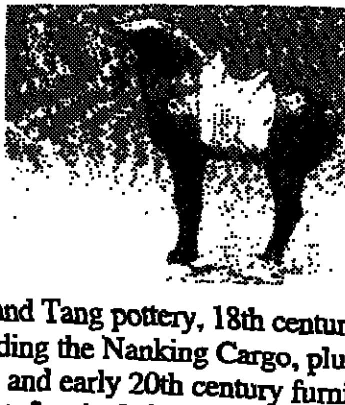
By nightfall, about 100 suspected militants had been arrested and 17 Hamas-affiliated institutions closed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, their buildings sealed with red wax. These included a television station, a kindergarten, a sports club and a women's group.

The swoop was the biggest against the militants since the mass arrests after suicide bombings early in 1996 which triggered the downfall of Shimon Peres, then Israel's Prime Minister.

Many of those detained then were quickly released, prompting Israeli officials to accuse Mr Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, of operating a "revolving door" security policy.

The new clampdown stemmed from proof offered by Israel that at least four of the five suicide bombers who recently attacked Jerusalem, killing 20 Jews, were from the West Bank and not further abroad, as Mr Arafat had insisted.

"Mr Arafat instructed the move because Hamas had misled him by claiming not to have had any part in the Jerusalem market and Ben Yehuda street bombs," a Palestinian official said. The Israeli Government had been threatening to act against Islamic militants in the Palestinian self-rule areas.



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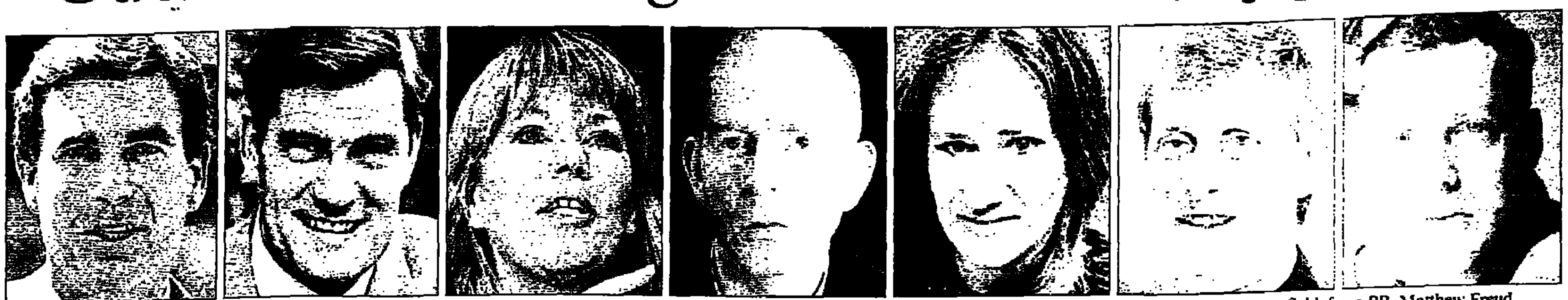


Brighton bound: from football, Trevor Brooking and Glenn Hoddle; the theatre, Jude Kelly; the music business, Alan McGee; from publishing, Eileen Wise and Terry Mansfield; from PR, Matthew Freud

A celebration for all but a rough ride for a few

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

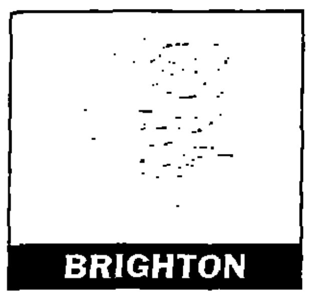
DAVID BLUNKETT and Harriet Harman face a rough ride when Labour meets as the governing party for the first time in 19 years at Brighton next week.

Although the mood will be celebratory after the victory of May 1, and although Tony Blair, John Prescott and others will be allowed to bask in their triumph, Labour's activists are expected to flex their muscles, most notably in the debates on education and benefits.

Conference planners expect Mr Blunkett to face tough questioning on Wednesday over the Government's decision in July to introduce tuition fees for university students, and Ms Harman on the same day may face criticism over Gordon Brown's decision to go ahead with Tory cuts in lone parent benefit.

In recent months Labour strategists have suggested that Mr Blair's greatest difficulties could come over his latest batch of party reforms, the shake-up of the national executive and the changes to the way the conference debates issues.

But after initial opposition from the unions the leadership compromised over its right to table motions for emergency debates, a concession that seems likely to get the latest "modernising" proposals through. Modernisation of Britain and the party is expected to be one of the central themes of Mr Blair's speech to the conference on Tuesday, when he is expected to set his sights not only on the end of the present Parliament but also of the next. The need for Labour to have at least two terms — and to maintain its discipline — will be a constant theme.



Mr Prescott will open proceedings on Monday with his "general election report" — an unashamed excuse to remind his audience of the glory of May 1 and the part played in it by Mr Blair. But it will straight down to business with the reforming "partnership into power" document up for discussion on the first morning, with Mr Brown opening the economic debate in the afternoon.

The first day may have one final twist: if the runes have been read correctly, Peter Mandelson will be elected to the National Executive Committee. The idea of Labour activists putting Mr Mandelson on to the committee would have been unthinkable not long ago. But it is believed they are ready to show some gratitude for his part in winning the election and promoting the cause of Mr Blair in earlier years.

His main opponent for the vacancy is Ken Livingstone. A Mandelson defeat would provide the press with one of its best stories of the week — which is why it probably will not happen.

On Tuesday morning during the debate on the health service ministers will take the opportunity to warn the party that a "long, hard slog" lies ahead before the Government can restore the National Health Service to the state it would like. Frank Dobson will deliver the message but the hand of Mr Brown, and his firm insistence that the previous Government's spending limits be adhered to, will be behind it.

The rest of the day will belong to Mr Blair. The Prime Minister has spent much of the past week working on his speech and will chart Labour's path for the next five years. He is assured of a hero's reception.

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Letters, page 23
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Andrew Pierce admires the shining guest list and concludes that the conference is the only party in town

What a difference an election makes. Next week's Labour Party conference, once the annual gathering of the far-left and trade union barons, has become the most in demand social and political gathering of the year. A record 15,000 delegates, compared with 10,000 last year, will throng Labour's first conference since 1978 as the party of government.

There are some unlikely guests at the feast. Glenn Hoddle, the England soccer coach, not noted for his Labour leanings, will make an appearance with Trevor Brooking, the footballer turned commentator, to lend support to Britain's bid to stage the World cup in 2006.

Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency which helped propel Margaret Thatcher to three successive victories, will be represented at a Labour conference for the first time.

Society photographers will have a field day. One of the most sought after party invitations is the one being hosted by National Magazines on Thursday — the first time the company has thrown a bash at a Labour conference. Editors of titles such as *Harpers & Queen*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire* and *Good Housekeeping* will host the champagne affair with Terry Mansfield, the company's managing director. The party was the idea of Eileen Wise, the company's head of communications, who was a key figure in the Tory Party election machine at the election. "There are now more than 100 women MPs. We thought it was an ideal time to meet them," she said.

Matthew Freud, the public relations guru whose clients include Pepsi and Mars, will be entertaining tomorrow night. Lenny Henry and Hugh Laurie will provide the cabaret.

Captains of industry will be represented in force. Richard Branson's Virgin Travel has taken an exhibition stand. The Liffe, Europe's biggest futures and options market, is also making its debut at a Labour conference — sponsoring a Fabian Society reception with Peter Mandelson. Represenatives of private health companies, more at ease with Conservative polices, will be working alongside the trade unions.

The luvvie factor will be stronger than ever. Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse theatre, tipped as a future head of the National Theatre, will be speaking.

So will Alan McGee, the founder of Creation Records, who discovered Oasis. Mr McGee has been nicknamed the Peter Mandelson of the music industry after delivering one of the most carefully planned publicity campaigns for the band's latest album, *Be Here Now*, which sold 350,000 copies in 12 hours. Five years ago Mr McGee, like the Labour Party, was on the verge of financial ruin.

Benn's attack gives warning that Left will not hold its tongue

Benn: said new party structure was unsound

By Nicholas Watt and James Landale

TONY BENN yesterday accused the Prime Minister of attempting to dismantle the Labour Party.

In a clear sign that left-wingers were ready to confront the leadership at the party conference, the veteran MP dismissed new Labour and said that the Establishment had always yearned for the party to abandon socialism.

Mr Benn believes that the leadership's *Partnership into Power* document, on which the conference will vote, would tighten Mr Blair's grip on the party. The Prime Minister's supporters say the proposals would give local activists a greater say.

In an interview with *Labour Left Briefing*, Mr Benn said: "This is not the end of the Labour Party but the attempt to use it as a foundation for something new. You can't separate yourself from your roots. It's like a tree deciding to cut its roots and just grow upwards. The tree will collapse, as we saw with the SDP."

Labour was yesterday given the green light to press ahead with its inquiry in Glasgow after Alex Mosson, deputy Lord Provost, failed in his court bid to get his suspension lifted. Mr Mosson, 57, was one of nine Glasgow councillors suspended by the party this week amid serious allegations, including that they traded political favours for trips abroad and broke party rules.

Mr Benn said that he would not leave the Labour Party. "If people leave they are contributing to the process of handing it over to new Labour. If left-wing MPs left the party it would delight the leadership."

Mr Blair will tomorrow face his first public confrontation with union members since taking office. Hundreds of rebel branches of Unison, Britain's largest public-service union, are to defy their leadership with a protest against the Government outside the conference hall in Brighton. They will be joined by other unions, and organisers expect more than 5,000 people to attend.

The protesters will demand greater pay rises for teachers and healthworkers, an end to tuition fees for students, scrapping of the Private Finance Initiative, higher taxes to pay for better public services, and the defence of Labour's links with the unions.

The march, organised by the Unison branch at University College Hospital, London, has been condemned by Rodney Bickerstaffe, the general secretary. In a letter to members, he said: "The lobby will only detract from the efforts being made by Unison, in the Labour Party and elsewhere, to pursue union policies such as opposition to the Private Finance Initiative."

Candy Unwin, Unison secretary at University College Hospital, said: "We are telling Blair's Government that we expected change when we voted them in, not more of the same. The honeymoon is well and truly over. How can big pay rises for ministers even be on the agenda when low-paid nurses and teachers are told their wages will be held down?"

Strategy failures lost Tories 80 seats

By Nicholas Wood

WEAK organisation cost the Tories about 80 seats at the general election, the Shadow Cabinet will be told next week. The findings come from research undertaken by ICM, the Conservatives' pollster. They will be presented to William Hague and his team at a two-day pre-conference strategy session.

The results will strengthen Mr Hague's hand in his efforts to convince his party and his parliamentary colleagues that the Tory machine must be radically overhauled if the Conservatives are to present a serious challenge to Labour at the next election.

They amount to the first hard evidence that the Conservatives paid a heavy price for allowing their grassroots support to wither during their 18 years in power.

ICM compared the level of contact with voters — either in person or by telephone — established by the two main parties in 12 marginal seats. It found that the anti-Tory swing was much lower in seats where the Conservatives were at least as good as Labour in tracking down voters.

Overall, 41 per cent of the swing could be explained by differences in contact rates, the pollsters say. This means that the Conservatives could have reduced the national swing to Labour from 10 per cent to 6 per cent if they had matched their opponents on the ground, according to the research. A 6 per cent swing would have limited the Labour majority to 35 — compared with the 179 achieved on polling day. It would also have given the Tories about 250 seats, compared with the 165 they actually secured.

Mr Hague has promised greater internal democracy and a centralised system of collecting and recording membership details as part of his proposals to reinvigorate the moribund party machine.

According to the internal Central Office post mortem, the Tories were rejected because they lost their reputation for sound economic management after Black Wednesday and because they were seen as sleazy, divided and arrogant. But the ICM research shows that organisational factors were almost as important as political ones.

One senior Tory official said: "This is not a comment on our members — they slugged their guts out as usual — but on the fact that we lost so many activists during our 18 years in government."

Hague: findings strengthen his hand

Salmond delivers foretaste of conflicts with Labour

By Shirley English

ALEX SALMOND, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, yesterday attacked new Labour as the party of "New Let-Downs".

Addressing 1,000 delegates at the SNP conference at Rothesay, on the Isle of Bute, he said Tony Blair's party was little more than "the Tories in designer labels" and added: "A Scottish parliament must and will cut its cloth according to its own fashion."

Giving a foretaste of future conflicts, following a brief truce between the parties during the referendum campaign, Mr Salmond criticised the "rightward drift" of Labour and claimed that it had "assimilated the creed of Thatcherism".

That creed, he claimed, now barred the younger generation from free higher education and forced the "generation that fought for freedom" into selling their homes to pass the means test for residential care. "How can anyone trust Cabinet members who benefited from free education yet now deny it to a new generation?" he said.

Referring to Labour's recent problems with sleaze in Glasgow, Mr Salmond said that a Scottish parliament elected by proportional representation would "sweep away the cynical culture of civic corruption".

Paraphrasing a song by The Proclaimers, who are SNP supporters, Mr Salmond said: "Let me say to the people of Scotland. Monklands no more. Glasgow no more. Paisley no more. No more Labour one-party states in Scotland. Now it is time for democracy to force the issue."

However, Mr Salmond expressed his belief that the parties should work together where possible and renewed his call for co-operation in building the "people's parliament".

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The two faces of Cherie

Mrs Blair and Ms Booth share the roles of mother, barrister, First Lady and charity worker. **Michael Gove** separates woman and superwoman

IAN WALDIE/REUTERS

Party duties at the last Labour conference: for a week each year, the highly articulate lawyer is turned into a mute wife

The hardworking QC in her chambers

Celebrating with a successful client

As the patron of Breast Cancer Care

Since the election, Tony Blair's wife has had to be two people at once: Cherie Booth the QC, and Cherie Blair, First Lady to an increasingly presidential Prime Minister. Over the past seven days she has been swapping personas, from Booth to Blair, as often as the models at London Fashion Week have switched outfits.

Last Sunday she became godmother to the youngest child of her Islington friends Stephen and Felicity Mostyn-Williams, spending most of the afternoon at the christening. On Monday, Mrs Blair launched a breast cancer campaign from No 10. The following day, Ms Booth was in the headlines for calling on the Bar to be less elitist, while Wednesday saw her winning a case for a woman with dyslexia. Yesterday Mrs Blair presented a Grandparent of the Year award. And today Ms Booth is chairing the annual Bar conference. From tomorrow, however, Cherie Booth becomes Mrs Tony Blair for the whole week — at the Labour Party conference in Brighton. An intelligent and articulate woman will be turned into a mute and adoring wife. The conference is one of the worst weeks of the year for her. A woman who lives on her eloquence and charms with her wit must observe a convent silence. Commentators, denied the chance to discuss her views, instead dissect her clothes, her hairstyle, her make-up — and, most of all, her body language, which some interpret as pained. It cannot be easy.

> ‘Friends joke that she is as likely to pull a packet of pasta out of her briefcase as an affidavit’

"Party conference is not number one in her list of favourite occupations," a friend says. "But she just puts on a different hat and smiles and gets on with it. She's a great getter-onner."

Since the election, that is precisely what Ms Booth has had to do. There were those who doubted her ability to continue at the Bar after Labour won power. They feared for her safety, they worried about conflicts of interest. Some simply disapproved of a Prime Minister's wife having a career. To prove them wrong, she has just got on with it, ploughing through attendant reporters and photographers to argue her case.

But although she keeps her arguments for court her continuing career has become a statement in itself. A poll of sixth-form girls put her top of their list of "superwomen" role models. It is a term much abused, but for this successful barrister the wig may fit.

The balancing act, however, is never easy. Within 24 hours of May 1, while Mr Blair was dispensing great offices of state, Cherie was learning to cope with living above the office. It was more than just another upheaval. Managing the move from Islington, with the family's taste in furnishings under scrutiny, was hardly the ideal way to wind down after six weeks of electioneering.

Downing Street is not exactly a cosy family home. The flat above No 11 is big enough but still fairly institutional. The move has not been without its political complications. Wrangles over rooms with next-door neighbour Gordon Brown have, according to insiders, strained relations between Mr Blair's wife and his Chancellor. But Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat, is a sanctuary for the family, where they can properly relax. Weekends are cherished, for while maintaining a private life was hard enough in Opposition, it has proved almost impossible in Government.

Privacy is something that the Blairs have come to value. The Prime Minister is protective of his wife: both are ferociously protective of their three children. Cherie, herself the daughter of a famous father (the actor Tony Booth) knows the dangers of growing up in the flashgun's glare.

They try to lead as much of a family life as possible in the circumstances. The Prime Minister aims to go upstairs from his office at about 7pm to see the children: Cherie is often not back until later. In the mornings, the Prime Minister can no longer drop off the children at the Tube as he used to, so Cherie pays for them to be driven to school. Relatives and a nanny help to share the childcare burden. As well as continuing her legal practice, Cherie has managed to fit in charity work, engagements with her husband and responsibility for the running of the household. Friends joke that she is as likely to pull a packet of pasta out of her briefcase as an affidavit. One says: "She's unflappable — that's her real strength. She has enormous stamina." Steely robustness was demonstrated by her return to the courtroom just days after her daughter was delivered by Caesarean section.

Being the wife of the Prime Minister calls for psychological as well as physical stamina. You cannot open your door to a delivery man in a nightdress. You cannot go to the supermarket without being photographed and having your choice of chunky knit analysed. Worst of all, you cannot assert your intelligence without people assuming that you want to run the country. Or already do. Those determined to make Mrs Blair the Modernisers' Messalina have tried to suggest she is a home-grown Hillary Clinton. But however justified stateside suspicions may be about who *really* wears the chinos in the White House, the parallels do not hold.

Both Hillary and Cherie are lawyers with progressive husbands who like soft rock. But then so are half the women in Islington and many of the wives in Washington. The similarities betwen the two end there. When Bill Clinton ran for office, he boasted that voters would get "two for the price of one". He allowed his wife to help to choose his Government and he then put her in it, with responsibility for reforming healthcare. It was a disaster and one the Blairs have no intention of repeating.

Cherie did once have political ambitions of her own and stood unsuccessfully for Thanet North in 1983. But she and her husband had a pact: if one got into Parliament, the other would stay at the Bar to support the family. Once he won Sedgefield, she disengaged from active politics and returned to law. She has no wish to be the Prime Minister's back-seat driver. Nonetheless, political enemies are waiting for the opportunity to paint her as a Lady Macbeth. Advisers have tried to forestall that danger with a series of "softening" exercises. But in order not to appear threatening she runs the danger of "dumbing down". Guest-editing *Prima* magazine, knitting patterns and all, before the election provoked ridicule as much as respect.

The acceptable public role: a charity event last week

Charity work on behalf of breast cancer patients or battered women is acceptable. So is talking about the law. But, if she were to give other interviews, her words would run the risk of being distorted and she would lose any right she still has not to be treated as a public figure.

However uncontentious the issues she embraces, there is always the danger that she will make a "gaffe" that will remain on the cuttings files for ever. For a woman who rose by eloquence and intelligence it has become dangerous to demonstrate too much evidence of either.

In court, on the other hand, she is in her element. As a barrister, she prefers cool reason to verbal pyrotechnics. When she occasionally sits on the bench, as an assistant recorder, observers say she deploys a sympathetic manner, taking care to put witnesses at their ease.

Because of her duties as Mrs Blair, though, Cherie may find that her next step on the legal ladder is barred to her. She had an ambition to be a judge, an obvious move after years as a senior barrister. The trouble is that legal terms are fixed, and judges have to be available for sittings all term. They cannot plead for time off to attend a G7 economic summit or to fit in some devolution campaigning.

Even if the Lord Chancellor were to make an exception, that could give rise to charges of nepotism. The man who would appoint Cherie to such a position and give her time off is her old pupil-master, her husband's mentor and the couple's close friend, Lord Irvine of Lairg.

Her current legal practice is somewhat more flexible. Most of her cases are pre-planned and she can, on the whole, work them around her husband's diary. There was concern initially that some of her clients would be deterred by the publicity she attracted, but she is still in demand. Her main problem has been the manner in which critics have wilfully misunderstood the Bar's "cab-rank" principle. Barristers have to accept whatever case they are offered. Ms Booth had to endure criticism from the Left when she acted against poll-tax defaulters and sniping from the Right when she represented a lesbian litigant in Brussels. In both cases she was acting as counsel must, a professional advocate for the arguments, irrespective of personal feeling.

For an intelligent woman, however, there are ironies in her position. When she had political ambitions, they must surely have been to be First Lord of the Treasury, not First Lady. Academically and at the Bar, she has achieved everything possible: four "A" grades at A level, top First in her year, top of her Bar exams, and appointed one of the country's youngest QCs at her first attempt.

Yet still she is outshone by her husband. As she once remarked, "I started life as the daughter of someone. Now I am the wife of someone."

If she were almost anyone else's wife, she might be the star of the couple. It is a tribute to her that she has handled her position with poise. At the end of a week in which commentators such as Francis Fukuyama have marshalled formidable arguments questioning whether women can have it all, Cherie Booth is an example to all those who believe that they should at least be allowed to try.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

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THE TIMES

Fugitive killer held in France

AP, FRANCOIS GUILLOT / EPA

From left, Holly Maddux, whose body was found in Einhorn's flat in 1977; Einhorn with a Philadelphia sheriff's deputy during his 1979 trial; Annika Flodin, his Swedish wife; and Einhorn is led into a Bordeaux appeals court this week

Ben Macintyre unfolds the saga of an American hippie-era guru who is fighting extradition

Ira Einhorn, celebrated former hippie guru and convicted murderer, was returned to a Bordeaux jail cell this week as French and US lawyers wrangled over whether he should be sent back to Philadelphia to serve a life sentence after 16 years as a fugitive in Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and France.

Since his arrest, the man who emerged in the 1960s as a leader of the drug-saturated counter-culture has entered an unreal legal limbo. Washington has formally demanded his extradition, but under French law anyone tried in absentia has the right to a retrial. Rarely has such a retrial been granted in America.

On Wednesday, the Bordeaux court of appeals that has pondered the case for the past three months postponed its decision and requested more information from the United States. Sitting in court, the bearded Einhorn, 57, who has successfully evaded American justice for so long, smiled broadly.

Last June a lucky break led the FBI to a converted mill in Champagne-Mouton in the Charente and the discovery of the real identity of Eugene Mallon, self-styled English novelist and member of the local bridge club.

Thirty years ago Einhorn was one of the most prominent and weirdest figures in the growing hippie movement. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Einhorn experimented with LSD in the 1950s, opposed the Vietnam War and briefly taught English literature at Harvard, soon attracting a mass following with his charisma and love of publicity.

Einhorn called himself "planetary enzyme" and wowed his acolytes with theories about "psychic weaponry", the paranormal, ecology and CIA conspiracies. In 1972 Einhorn began a stormy relationship with Holly Maddux, 25, a mildly unbalanced Texan hippie. Late in 1977 Maddux disappeared. Eighteen months later Einhorn's neighbours in Philadelphia reported a stench. On March 28, 1979, police raided his flat and found the woman's decomposing body locked in a trunk.

Einhorn was arrested, claiming to be the victim of a CIA plot. His admirers rallied round and lawyers had no difficulty raising the $40,000 (£25,000) bail. Two days before his murder trial was due to start, Einhorn slipped out of Philadelphia.

Using false names, Einhorn headed first to London and then to Dublin, where he joined the poetic circle round Seamus Heaney at Trinity College. In 1987 the great Irish poet reportedly told police he had known Einhorn, then calling himself Ben Moore. Before the Irish police could pounce, Einhorn had moved on again: back to England, to the Balearic Islands, Switzerland and back to London. It was in London in 1987 that Einhorn met Annika Flodin, a Swedish fashion designer 11 years his junior. They settled briefly in Stockholm.

Back in Philadelphia a district attorney, Richard Di Benedetto, was slowly picking up Einhorn's trail. In 1988 the Swedish police closed in on Flodin's apartment, only to find it empty. In 1992, with a fake identity card, Einhorn became Eugene Mallon and Flodin became his wife Annie.

The following year a Philadelphia jury found Einhorn guilty of murder in absentia and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Maddux had been killed by repeated blows to the head.

By 1993, Eugene and Annie Mallon were living quietly and comfortably in the Guitry mill at Champagne-Mouton. Annie was liked in the village, but the author, who said he was born in England and raised in California, was more reserved, speaking poor French and hardly socialising.

The slip that led to his arrest, as in all the best detective stories, was absurdly banal. Annie Mallon, née Flodin, applied to convert her Swedish driving licence into a French permit; the French authorities requested documents from their Swedish counterparts; the Swedes told Di Benedetto Flodin had resurfaced, and on June 13 a posse of gendarmes led Einhorn away from Guitry mill in handcuffs as astonished neighbours watched.

The appeals court will issue a verdict on November 4, but Einhorn's lawyer, citing European human rights law, believes the Bordeaux judges will never permit the extradition without a retrial.

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The cheerful broker of a breakthrough

Mo Mowlam, extrovert yet sensitive to the nuances of her Northern Ireland brief, is proving a doughty fighter for peace

Valerie Grove

Mo Mowlam alights from her Citation jet at RAF Northolt and sprints to her waiting car. The Northern Ireland Secretary is late for a meeting, and the London traffic is terrible because of a suspect package under a roundabout in Chiswick. This was the only time we could talk: she was flying back to Belfast yesterday morning for (among other things) a meeting with Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. "I'm hoping to get him to come to the talks." Would he be amenable? "I think not, but that doesn't mean you don't start trying."

Extrovert, open, sporty, a "tough old boot", in her own words, Dr Mowlam has made great strides in four months. David Trimble and Gerry Adams in the same building on Tuesday and glaring across the same table on Wednesday — that was a breakthrough, even if Trimble is implacable about actually talking with "that squalid gang of gunmen". Mo understands: she admires Trimble's courage and determination. "We've just got to keep going and build trust and confidence so all nine parties can move forward. Or is it ten?" She whizzes through them: "Alliance, Labour, Women, UDP, Sinn Fein, PUP, SDLP, UUP. We're still missing the DUP and the UKUP."

She is constantly astonished to discover how incurious the rest of us are — even political commentators — about details. We just want those talks to happen, and have no appetite for paragraphs on decommissioning or consent. "People want the talks to work, and they don't want any trouble from either side."

Arbitrating between the hard men is quite enough to contend with but nothing more eloquently proves her doughty spirit than her cheerful relationship with the press. Tabloids may clean up their act on paparazzi, but they can still say what they like: it was the *Mail* and the *Express* who taunted Mo, earlier this year, about her increase in weight. She was forced to reveal, with commendable lack of irritation, the chemotherapy, radiotherapy and steroid treatment she was having for a non-malignant brain tumour. Until then she'd told only her husband and Tony Blair. When her hair fell out she had simply looked up "Wigs" in the Yellow Pages and found a place where she could buy them off the peg.

Under her colourful headscarf I can see strands of her own hair. In another few weeks she will have her blond locks back and will keep them short: it's such a relief not to have to wash and blow-dry every morning. "And I have a clean bill of health," she says.

But when she admitted to having lost her temper at Stormont on Tuesday night, *The Times*'s Dr Stuttaford obliged with a diagnosis about crabbiness following brain tumours. Again Mo showed admirable restraint. "During these talks we've had many hours of difficult discussion late into the night, and I'm only human. I think to lose it once in months of negotiation is pretty good going.

"I didn't argue. I stood up and said, 'I find this level of abuse unacceptable, I'm going to go out and keep my temper for two minutes and then I'll be back', and that's what I did. It was controlled frustration. And when I came back in they'd left. But I'm not pleased with it, and I'll try not to do it again."

In her schooldays, she remembers debating "The Northern Ireland problem is insoluble. Discuss." When the present Troubles began, and Jim Callaghan sent the troops into Northern Ireland in August 1969, she was at Durham University, much more interested in CND.

But soon after she won her seat in Redcar in 1987, Neil Kinnock promoted her to the front bench, as a spokesman on Northern Ireland, so she got to know the province, and learned circumspection. "I often get asked if I have Catholic or Protestant roots. In Northern Ireland people want to know if you're for or against them, and if you have family on one side or another. Because I have neither, I get a fair bit of criticism. But it's probably an advantage to communicate with both sides without any historical baggage."

But as Gerry Fitt once said, if you stand in the middle of the road you get knocked down. "Yes. It's not always comfortable and sometimes it alienates one side or another. But I will live with that."

When she and Adams shook hands this summer, he said he hoped she would be the last Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. She promised to check the exact date for me and wrote "shook GA" on her hand with a ballpoint pen.

The first time he proffered his hand had been during an unexpected encounter two years ago, at the Washington economic conference when Adams and Patrick Mayhew met. "The next night I was standing by the dinner table and out of the corner of my eye I caught Adams coming towards me. What to do? I thought, you can't cut and run or you look a complete wimp. He came up with arm outstretched and said, 'Could I give you my condolences for the death of Harold Wilson?' Now in that situation you put your hand out and say 'Thank you for that'."

The day after Labour's general election victory, she lost no time in getting into the streets of sunny Belfast, being greeted warmly on all sides: a graphic indication of her determination to fling her energy into this unenviable new job, and of the touchy-feeliness of the new regime. Also a distinct change of style from her predecessor's.

She praises Patrick Mayhew to the skies, but he could never reach out to people like that, with his plummy voice and his commanding height. "A lovely man, a really good man," she says fondly, "but just too tall. We all come to life with different skills and limitations. I can't sing, I can't dance, I can't write, I can't spell; but something I can do is get on with people.

"People drive me and I want to get the best I can for them. I'm classless, you see." When she graduated from Durham, she invited her college cleaner along because she'd never been to a graduation ceremony before.

She was born in Southall, the daughter of a postal worker, and the family moved to Coventry when she was 11. At her comprehensive school she was made head girl — she says because she was wayward and they wanted to tame her. Her history teacher, Miss Morley, inspired the girls to talk and argue. She once turned up to hear Mo speak in Bournemouth, and sat in the front row in a turquoise suit and pillarbox hat "and I'm sure she's never voted Labour".

She met her husband, Jon Norton, a banker, when he was fundraising in the City for the Labour Party in the 1980s. "He was then married with kids. Then four years later I met him again and he was divorced," she says. "In my line of business I have to make that distinction."

Late in August she and her husband escaped to a rented house on a Spanish mountainside for peace and solitude, resolutely avoiding other Brits — she was not far from Cecil Parkinson's place, in fact — so they knew nothing of Diana's death until four days after the event, when her secretary rang to ask whether she wanted to go to the funeral. "What funeral?" asked Mo.

She has also managed, throughout these tough weeks, not to resort to smoking again. Having smoked since her teens, she'd tried everything to stop — being sponsored by constituents, going to hypnotists, chewing Nicorette and smoking at the same time. "But I've now done it on my own: and I don't crave it at all. I think of the money I save and I'm back to swimming, and I feel healthier again."

I told her that Robert Harris had said on *Newsnight* that he thought his friend Peter Mandelson would do well as Northern Ireland Secretary. She laughed and said that it was not a job that many of her colleagues want: but she'd wanted it, and was honoured to do it. Plainly, 1997 will prove to be her *annus mirabilis* if, after triumphing over illness, and victory in the polls, she manages to get the implacable enemies "bedded down" by spring, and a referendum on an agreed settlement by next May. "Some say next May is too quick, but you must have goals to give the talks a momentum. And we are certainly in the best position this century.

"It's going to be up and down for some time yet. The only way to get through is not to treat it as glory days and glum days, or wallow in the glory or the glumness, just treat every one the same, as in that Kipling poem . . ." (the one about meeting triumph and disaster and treating them the same).

And, of course, *If*— begins: "If you can keep your head when all about you / Are losing theirs and blaming it on you. . ."

> ‘I think to lose it once in months of negotiation is pretty good going’

CRISPIN RODWELL

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who has been given a clean bill of health

Established double act provide a bitter-sweet contrast

By Ann Scanlon

ROCK

Oasis/The Verve
Earls Court

THE last time Oasis played in London was in November 1995. That two-night stint at Earls Court came just as their album *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* was on its way to being a multimillion seller, but before the Gallaghers had become a daily fixture in the newspapers. Then came Knebworth, their coronation as British superstars. Now Oasis have returned to the relative intimacy of Earls Court to play three shows, supported by The Verve.

The two bands have a history of playing together, which is slightly odd because both have long cherished an ambition of being the best in the world. Indeed, The Verve's album *A Northern Soul* should have made it clear that they were one of Oasis's few rivals.

The Verve imploded in August 1995 but returned this summer with the triumphant, string-laden single *Bitter Sweet Symphony*. With their third album, *Urban Hymns*, out on Monday, they are well on their way to playing at Earls Court on their own.

However, on the first night at least, there was something disconcerting about watching Richard Ashcroft trying to make his big soulful songs connect emotionally with a still half-filled stadium of vaguely interested Oasis fans. There were people equally keen to see The Verve but the only songs that seemed to elicit any response were the two recent singles.

The contrast between the muted reaction to The Verve and the arrival of Oasis could not have been clearer: cue the lights, the colour, the larger-than-life set, the audience screams. Liam Gallagher immediately asserted his supremacy by prowling around the stage, clenching his fist and screaming at the crowd "Come on!" — which they did. The singer went with the flow, climbing on a specially constructed bar during *Roll With It*, kicking his tambourine across the stage, booting his amplifier over during the encore, and sometimes staring directly into the camera at his feet, so that his huge projected image seemed to be singing personally to each individual in the crowd.

For all the talk of the new darker mood in Britain, this show was all about celebration.

Noel Gallagher might have dedicated the band's recent single to their support act and asked, "D'you know what I mean about The Verve?" But most people didn't have a clue. They did, however, know exactly what he meant when he came to the end of his final solo, raised his guitar above his head — half in parody — and flicked a parting V-sign.

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Is Hague a one-night stand-in?

Party reform will be the real test for the Tory leader, says **Tim Hames**

Last month Labour marked 100 days in office. It did so in a carnival atmosphere. William Hague endured a rather less rapturous anniversary. One can only hope that Ffion has a better honeymoon.

The headlines of this September may disappear as quickly as they surfaced. The issue that will really shape Mr Hague's leadership over the next 100 weeks is the one he placed at the centre of his leadership bid: internal party reform. If this fails to impress either Tory activists or the wider electorate, his tenure will seem uncertain.

The Hague project embraces the entire structure of the Conservative Party but two key questions will largely define the enterprise: the method by which the Conservative leader is selected and the means by which parliamentary candidates are chosen. These matters will dominate the minds of activists when the Conservative Party conference opens in Blackpool.

In both cases a balance has to be struck between two sets of interests. This is especially stark in the case of leadership selection. The Conservatives have historically been the defenders of parliamentary sovereignty. This does not fit easily with the notion of mass party democracy. If the general election had not eliminated the Tories from Scotland and Wales or decimated them in urban England, it is unlikely that such reform would have been contemplated. Nonetheless, the issue now is how change should be implemented.

Numerous proposals have been floated. These centre on some sort of electoral college with (varying) proportions allocated to MPs and ordinary members. This device seeks to blend two features: the specialist knowledge that only MPs can have, and the need for widespread appeal. These schemes all contain a common flaw. Whatever the percentages adopted, the possibility would exist of the two components coming to alternative outcomes. That would create a crisis for whoever won the election. Labour has had the fortune to avoid this disaster so far. The Tories should not push their luck.

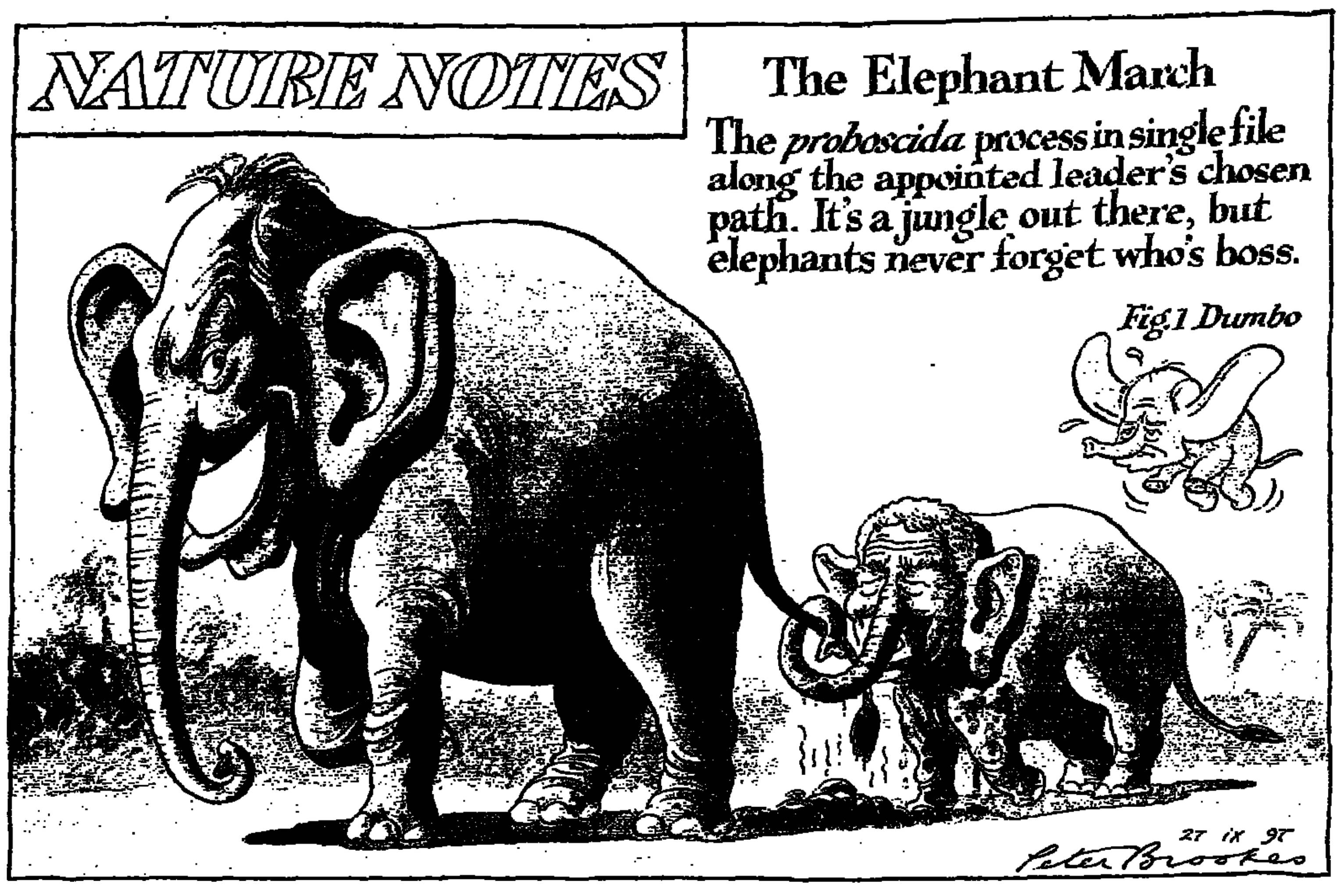
A better blend can be borrowed from the United States. In several states, a small number of party officials produce a shortlist of candidates who are then placed before the wider public. In effect, this is what happens in Conservative parliamentary candidate selection at present. Tory MPs should hold two preliminary leadership ballots. The first should eliminate all the contenders bar three. The second should permit any aspirant who registered more than 25 per cent support among parliamentarians to enter a decisive contest conducted on the principle of one member, one vote. Such a formula would allow discretion and democracy their due role and display deference to Tory tradition. It should also preclude the need to submit the Conservative Party Chairman to mass franchise. That exercise is unnecessary for a post of this nature and a virtual invitation to internal division.

Local party selection needs far less dramatic surgery. The "Tatton factor" has been much overblown by those who would like to reduce the autonomy of local associations. It was the Conservative Party centrally which first put Neil Hamilton on its candidates list, and the Tories in Westminster who refused to remove the whip from him. In the absence of such action, the choice made by Cheshire Conservatives was perfectly proper. There is a case for allowing Central Office a limited power of veto, in exceptional circumstances, over those who would carry the party colours. If the approved list was more tightly constructed and submitted to continuous appraisal, such remedial action from the centre should be rare indeed.

The Tories should, though, be rather more concerned about the "Tina factor". The disparity in female representation at Westminster between the two major parties is stark and of more than mere symbolic importance. Cultural and institutional factors within the Conservative Party are responsible for this contrast. The party as a whole needs to display the will to address this imbalance. All-women shortlists would be wrong in principle and legally contestable in practice. But the Conservatives had all-male shortlists in more than 80 per cent of selection contests before the last election. In all constituencies where the party exceeds a certain size, the association meeting should choose between a shortlist of three or four contenders — with both sexes represented.

> The Tories have always opposed radical change

The means by which the Conservative Party is redesigned will be taken as a wider reflection on Mr Hague's leadership qualities. If the reforms he promotes are taken as unduly timid, or poorly designed in the face of adverse comment, then comparisons with his catastrophic predecessor will follow. The crisis at the centre of the Conservative Party that started seven years ago when Michael Heseltine challenged Margaret Thatcher will continue. There is little prospect of recovery for the Right if that persists. The Conservatives have always opposed revolutionary change but quietly adopted it for their own affairs when the occasion appeared sufficiently urgent. Mr Hague will need to be bold if these 100 days are not to prove a prelude to his Waterloo.


NATURE NOTES
The Elephant March
The *proboscida* process in single file along the appointed leader's chosen path. It's a jungle out there, but elephants never forget who's boss.
Fig.1 Dumbo
27 ix 97
Peter Brookes

Who are the barbarians?

Never mind Saudi Arabia. Our penal system is an international disgrace

Simon Jenkins

I am against primitive punishment. I am against it whether the victim is male or female, British or foreign, guilty or innocent, nurse, drug dealer or common thief. Inch by inch humanity claws its way up the ladder of civilisation. When a rung snaps, we groan. We are that close to the brink.

I am not referring to the unlikely execution and flogging of two British nurses in Saudi Arabia. I refer to a punishment which received less publicity amid yesterday's anti-Arab hysteria. A British judge, Gabriel Hutton, ordered that a pregnant 17-year-old from Gloucester, in jail for shoplifting, should have her baby removed from her in the delivery room at birth so she could go back to jail to complete her sentence. She had pleaded guilty to stealing four shirts worth £60 from Marks & Spencer.

I venture that most foreigners would use the word barbaric of this punishment. In Saudi Arabia, pregnant women are automatically reprieved for two years after giving birth. Britain is one of the last European countries routinely to jail people for minor property crimes. This is one reason why it has the highest and most costly prison population in Europe, and probably why recidivism is rife. The shirts may have cost Marks & Spencer £60. They will have cost the taxpayer some £20,000. This is ludicrous.

Most Britons are inured to the cruelty of a penal tradition still obsessed with retribution. They are penologically illiterate. Most would read about the 17-year-old, shrug and say she deserved it. She was a persistent offender. Her father was in prison and her mother a convict. The judge went out of his way to remark that being deprived of the baby was seen by him as part of the punishment. He said: "You deserve a real punishment to try to break once and for all this habit of stealing other people's property . . . only a custodial sentence can be justified."

Set aside the crude lashing of maternity to the wheel of societal revenge, set aside any trauma to the baby, this is a disproportionate response to stealing four shirts. It is the emotional equivalent of chopping off a hand. It is medieval. As for whether separation from a new baby is more or less likely to cure a case of kleptomania, even for just two weeks in this case, I would rather have a professional than a judicial view.

One of the reasons why civilised cultures abandoned lynch law and mob rule is that they preferred their law and order mediated by justice. Mobs regress. They connect a belief in a golden age of order with a more ruthless regime of punishment, a connection for which there is no shred of evidence. Britain has always ranked far down the league in penal reform. As long ago as 1215, Pope Innocent III sought to stamp out the northerners' obsession with trial by ordeal, claiming that it was ridiculous to invoke scorched flesh as a sign of guilt or innocence. (He instituted more scientific judicial cross-examination, namely the thumbscrew and the rack.) Britain was still flogging men for homosexuality between the wars. The preferred method of execution, hanging by a rope, was seen abroad as barbaric compared with decapitation or firing squad. The last British prison whipping was in 1967 but Britons could legally beat children in school until 1986.

The protest at the Saudi sentences is vulnerable to hypocrisy on almost every score. I wonder if those now raising a hue and cry would do the same were the prisoners male bankers rather than female nurses. At this moment, a British businessman is facing electrocution on death row in Florida for a double murder 11 years ago that all seem to agree he did not commit. The Briton, Chris Maharaj, has the misfortune to be non-white, male and not a nurse. He appears to have been stitched up for a murder and tried by a judge later arrested for corruption, but had insufficient money to pursue his defence.

Britons view America differently from Saudi Arabia. The former's penchant for frying alive those who might (or might not) have committed murder is a minor blot on the transatlantic friendship, best not mentioned in polite company. It is even mildly glamorous, a sign that the Wild West spirit is not dead. Besides, American justice is America's business. That is why no British embassy officials or tabloid reporters are beating a path to Florida to plead Mr Maharaj's case (although, to be fair, Channel 4 has done so). Moral outrage is an easy cloak for prejudice. Americans are good Christian people, so we should not complain when they behave like, say, Arabs.

I have some sympathy with the thesis that the next global conflict will be between the West and Muslim fanaticism. Recent outrages from Algeria and Egypt through Iraq and Afghanistan, even as far as Indonesia, suggest an unstable region with immense capacity for international mischief. The fate of those who risk their careers and even lives in the primitive politics of Saudi Arabia should concern us. But that concern can only be effective if delicately articulated. Rubbishing Arab dictators may make good copy at home. But Saddam Hussein, Colonel Gaddafi, President Assad and the ayatollahs all testify that Western abuse is a heady elixir of power.

The new British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, fell into the abuse trap by initially attacking the sentence as "unacceptable", a favourite Foreign Office word for what Britain no longer has any option but to accept. The Saudi verdicts were a gift to every chauvinist rabble-rouser. But xenophobic outrage — not, I note, directed at the Australian brother and accessory to the outrage — does not free prisoners. Most observers were convinced from the start that, should the nurses be found guilty, they would somehow be freed in the end. The only sure thing was that anti-Arab abuse would make this harder rather than easier. By yesterday Mr Cook had calmed his words.

Even in the best circumstances, nation is ill-advised to preach morality unto nation. Of course governments must defend their nationals who are attacked abroad, even when they are victims of a properly constituted legal system. They are equally right to ban their own citizens to profit from injustices visited by foreign governments on their own peoples. The selling of anti-personnel equipment to Indonesia was a blot on the last Tory Government which Mr Cook has commendably reversed.

But Britain is not well-placed to criticise the penal practices of other states. In the same week that his colleague was protesting the fate of the Saudi nurses, the Home Secretary was proposing to incarcerate parents for the misdeeds of their children. He was filling a revival of a prison hulk off Portland Bill. He showed no inclination to cut the prison population or to stop squandering money on new jails. Indeed, he is proposing a "war on drugs", the sole consequence of which will be to expose ever more young people to what is now the nation's hottest drugs market, the Home Office prison service.

In last year's Douglas-Home essay, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir Stephen Tumim, reviewed the verdicts of judges from Britain, Germany, Sweden, France and The Netherlands on a given set of crimes. The findings were stark. British judges were by far the most inclined to imprison. Continental judges were more concerned to protect society from reoffending, and were thus more aware of the effect of punishment on the criminal. Even where prison was the verdict, British sentences were longer than abroad without any obvious benefit to the crime rate. Few civilised countries nowadays incarcerate those convicted of non-violent crime, or they do so only in remedial prisons. They know that a jail is the last place likely to reform a criminal.

Britain has some of the most crowded and backward prisons in the developed world. It has packed cells, brutalised remand centres, conditions so explosive that many governors tolerate the drugs epidemic as a palliative.

Britain still locks up fine-defaulters and shuts away for seven years the tiny minority of soft-drug sellers who get caught. The Government is going down the costly minimum sentences route, pandering to public opinion with no basis in theory for such innovation. Not to mince words, Britain has emerged from the past decade with a policy on punishment scarcely more sophisticated than that of Third World countries it loves to pillory.

There may be a beam in our Saudi brother's eye. In our own there is a mighty mote.

Dunkirk spirit in the desert

Giles Whittell on a very British record-breaker

It is easy to misunderstand Richard Noble. Stalking the Nevada desert in denim shorts, with a black briefcase on the end of each arm and a ten-tonne titanium car streaking over the silt at more than 700 miles an hour, he is determined, you might think, to mastermind the first supersonic drive in history.

He is, but only incidentally. He swears there is a larger aim than sheer speed to his dusty endeavour, and it is one that may touch some raw nerves among those who have denied him support in the past. "It's all about beating the British system," he booms, squinting into the sun, when asked what makes him stay the dangerous course. One wonders if he is serious. He is British, after all. His dedicated team is British. Most of his sponsors are British. So, is he serious? "Absolutely," he says.

It is 14 years since this big, perplexing man set his own speed record at Black Rock. That achievement made him a hero in the local bars and put his first *Thrust* car in a Coventry motoring museum, but it somehow failed to mark him out as a safe bet for the major corporate backing on which his brand of adventure usually depends. He talks frequently, if obliquely, of a "bad experience" with the City, when, apparently, funding was withdrawn from a company he set up in the 1980s to build a new twin-engined aircraft. He later found he was not to be trusted with adequate sponsorship for his *Atlantic Sprint* Blue Riband challenge, nor for the *Thrust SSC* project after its first disappointing outing to Jordan last year.

That mistrust is now mutual and deep. Indeed, at times it threatened to overwhelm his elation at leading a successful new land speed record bid on Thursday. "I set this up as one of the most exciting global corporate promotions of all time. It's working, but still the corporates don't come, and still we're on a knife-edge financially," he said. "I'm sick of begging."

In the rush of vindication, a leader is entitled to vent anger as well as relief. But it is worth asking which corporate promotions manager would have been wise to pour his shareholders' money into a project fraught with technical difficulties and intended to propel one man from nowhere to precisely nowhere at appalling risk to himself and arguable benefit to others.

It is in the nature of risk-taking, especially on the technological frontiers of the late 20th century, to involve snubs and logistical tightrope-walking as well as risk itself. Richard Noble has emerged, nonetheless, a triumphant winner. The secrets of his success against huge odds are various. He enlisted one of the world's leading aerodynamicists in Ron Ayers and built his team around a core of RAF professionals. But he kept it alive by turning to his real constituency — a 5,000-strong supporters' club and legions of followers on the Internet, who between them, with myriad donations and souvenir purchases, funded 20 per cent of his Black Rock expedition.

This last-minute surge of support from the private and anonymous could without hyperbole be likened to the spirit of Dunkirk. With its help Mr Noble has certainly upended one view of the British — as inspired amateurs — since he has trounced his rival, the *Spirit of America*, in organisation as well as speed. But his cause is still more British than perhaps he knows.

THE TIMES DIARY

Bell push

That king of spin, Sir Tim Bell, has been called in to rescue the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund from rising criticism. Sir Tim's strategists will start urgent talks with senior organisers of the fund next week. This follows a very public rumpus when one of the Duke of Edinburgh's charities gave warning that the new fund would do "deep and lasting" damage to other needy causes. This time Lowe Bell, which refuses work paying less than £20,000 a month, is giving advice free. The Memorial Fund has already received more than £8 million in the first ten days of its existence, with proceeds from *Candle in the Wind* and video sales yet to be totted up.

But Action Research (patron: HRH the Duke of Edinburgh) says that the flood of cash cascading into the fund's coffers is diverting donations from them — "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

Enter Sir Tim, who flourished as Baroness Thatcher's PR maestro and picked up biggish clients such as Buck House and Boris Yeltsin. Indeed, his presentational talents enabled him to ride out unwelcome publicity over an aberration in his private life best not dwelt on here. "The fund is taking money from the public and so it needs to present a public face, which is where we come in," Bells growls down the line of my Bakelite. "We are delighted to be involved."

● *John Redwood offered copies of a racy Edwina Currie novel to a second-hand bookshop last week. "You must be joking," came the reply. "She has even autographed them. No one will buy them."*

"I know who you remind me of . . . Kate Moss"

Trump that

PEACE can be but a dim hope for weary citizens of war-ravaged Croatia after the latest word from that society evergreen, Ivana Trump: she intends to start her own hotel chain there.

She has just scoured the country's bomb sites in search of suitable plots to build swell hotels for holidaying plutocrats.

"Ivana was an official guest of the Government," purrs her travelling companion, the inevitable Liz Brewer. "They are very eager for her to attract the right sort of tourist here. Her friends will love it." And of this blood-stained land, she says: "It's just so unspoilt." Until now, perhaps.

● *THIS proves that Cherie Blair is no normal woman. She has written to the estate agents who sold her Islington home — to* thank *them.*

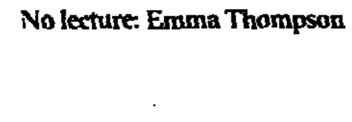
● NEW TIMES
Out next month: a new book by Colin Spencer, *The Gay Kama Sutra*, explores the sexual joy of biting, scratching and much, much else.
His previous work was a study linking homosexuality and vegetarianism.

Luvvie trouble

GRUMPY dons at Newnham College, Cambridge, are thumbing through yellowing copies of their rulebook to see whether they can sack the actress Emma Thompson, whom they boldly made an honorary fellow a year ago.

"Emma persistently promised that she would lecture the students on how to turn a book into a film," rages an irate college bluestocking. "But there is still no sign of her. We are beginning to despair that she will ever honour her word."

The college has had more than its share of controversy, with a summer fuss over the appointment of its fellow Rachel Padham, who was born a man but is now a woman. Almost. Varsity seems to be growing racier than vaudeville.



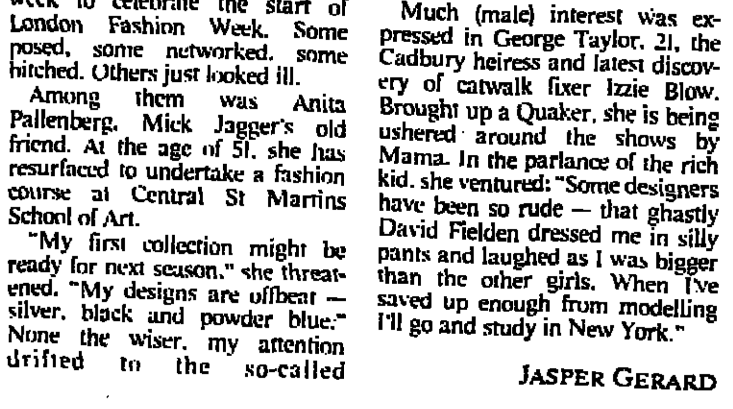
No lecture: Emma Thompson

● *WITH commendable concern for the taxpayer, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, insists that I am too pessimistic in predicting that repairs to his residence will cost as much as £2 million. The approved estimate is £650,000 and he is confident the budget will be met. If so, I must borrow his builders. I shall monitor their progress.*

Tucking in

POOR underfed BBC toilers. Gavin Esler, the reporter now rivalling Jeremy Paxman as *Newsnight's* male crumpet, visited Blomberg publishers this week. "He insisted on seeing himself out," says one there. "Later I found him in the kitchens, stuffing himself with fruit. He was behaving as if he hadn't seen food for days."

● OLD TIMES
"My home and my family matter a great deal to me. . . I need the security."
Edwina Currie, the former Tory MP, speaking in 1988. She has just announced her separation from her husband to concide with the launch of her novel She's Leaving Home



Georgie girl: Cadbury heiress George Taylor turned a few heads

● **PARTY TIME.** The king prawns and half-starved shrimps that comprise the world of couture swam into the capital's party scene last week to celebrate the start of London Fashion Week. Some posed, some networked, some hitched. Others just looked ill.

Among them was Anita Pallenberg, Mick Jagger's old friend. At the age of 51, she has resurfaced to undertake a fashion course at Central St Martins School of Art.

"My first collection might be ready for next season," she threatened. "My designs are offbeat — silver, black and powder blue." None the wiser, my attention drifted to the so-called "supermodel" Elle Macpherson but conversation stalled rather when she enthused about shoes with red soles.

Much (male) interest was expressed in George Taylor, 21, the Cadbury heiress and latest discovery of catwalk fixer Izzie Blow. Brought up a Quaker, she is being ushered around the shows by Mama. In the parlance of the rich kid, she ventured: "Some designers have been so rude — that ghastly David Fielden dressed me in silly pants and laughed as I was bigger than the other girls. When I've saved up enough from modelling I'll go and study in New York."

JASPER GERARD

FOOLS RUSH IN

A snap decision on EMU would destroy all trust in Blair

As he sets out for the Labour Party conference in Brighton, Tony Blair has the look of a man whose conquest of Britain is more assured with every week in power. The conquest of Europe must seem daily more enticing and more achievable and the thrust of Mr Blair's strategy has already been declared. It is to use the example of Britain's economic success to win over its partners to the flexible market doctrines that will shorten their dole queues and restore Europe's international competitiveness.

Fate has fired the starting gun for this campaign by giving Britain the six-month presidency of the European Union in January. Because this straddles the date when EU governments must decide who joins the first wave of economic and monetary union, the Prime Minister was bound by this autumn to come under intense pressure to accept that a commitment on joining EMU is needed to enhance his leverage.

Mr Blair was elected on the understanding that he would defend British interests in Europe as robustly as any Tory. He must keep the presidency and EMU firmly compartmentalised in his own mind if he is not to be bounced into a step that would break the precious bond of trust with the country that he has so successfully forged. To enter EMU at all would be to hazard Britain's prosperity and its future on a project which is politically flawed and economically ill-judged. It would manacle the nation's freedom to act. To enter in the wake of the first wave would be to make a mockery of the claim that Labour's position is purely pragmatic.

The City's belief that the pro-EMU camp in the Cabinet will triumph is already proof against No 10's efforts publicly to counter that, while all options remain open, the Government is minded to wait and see whether EMU is a success before deciding on British membership. Even after the inevitable disclaimers from No 10 and the Treasury, a *Financial Times* report yesterday that the Government was poised for a positive "declaration of intent" on joining EMU soon after the January 1999 launch date was enough to depress sterling and send the FTSE 100 soaring 160 points.

Since both trends are exactly what the Government would wish, the position of such influential friends of EMU as Gordon Brown, Lord Simon of Highbury and the Confederation of British Industry will be strengthened. Robin Cook, the Cabinet's ranking sceptic, has accepted that Britain should not stand aloof from a successful EMU; and the task of defining success and assessing the economic costs and benefits of joining lies in Mr Brown's domain. If this was a kite released from somewhere near the Treasury roof, it caught a fair wind. The Prime Minister should redouble his guard.

Mr Blair's own position on British membership of EMU is agnostic. He is untroubled by the principle of surrendering Britain's economic sovereignty, wrongly believing this argument to be an anachronism in a globalised economy. On the national economic interest, he is open to persuasion. The politics of EMU is what matters to him. His overriding concern is to secure the full two terms in office that, he is convinced, are essential if new Labour is to set its stamp on Britain. He may think that the political bottom line of deciding to join EMU in the lifetime of this Parliament is that Labour must first fight and win a referendum — and do so decisively and without losing political momentum.

Mr Blair is now expected to state Britain's position before the December 31 deadline for saying whether Britain will join in January 1999. He may easily be persuaded that the country can be softened up for early entry by a statement of readiness in principle to join. From there, the slippery slope steepens. The Brown camp could, while conceding that to set a firm timetable would be too risky, argue that the Government should seek an "enabling" referendum, which set no date but asked the British people also to give its assent in principle to EMU and leave the timing to the Government. That would seal Labour's pact with business, Mr Blair would be told: and with the Tories disorganised and Labour's standing in the country so high, he should seize the tide of fortune. But if he heeds this advice, he will be swept onto the political rocks.

Mr Blair might win the referendum, but at the cost of his outstanding political asset, his reputation for straight dealing. On the most momentous decision this country has faced since the war, he would have acted as a political opportunist. He would never be forgiven. He would not deserve to be.

MANDELA ON TRIAL

The President himself must stand up to his ex-wife

In defiant mood, and with considerable theatre, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela presented herself yesterday to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She declared her intention to see "matters settled" and demanded the right to public hearings. The commission continued its in-camera deliberations but meekly acceded to her request. The stage is now set for an extraordinary encounter in November. It is not one that either Nelson Mandela or the African National Congress will relish.

Mrs Mandela's approach sits in uneasy contrast with the accusations against her. She has long been directly implicated in the murder of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a 14-year-old boy who died at the hands of her infamous "Mandela United" football club in Soweto eight years ago. The recent revelations by Katiza Cebekhulu, a crucial witness to those events, has served to reinforce past suspicions. An additional 17 counts of gross human rights abuse including seven murders involving Mrs Mandela are now in front of the commission.

Mrs Mandela has portrayed her willingness to face open examination as proof of her innocence. Others suspect that she will swiftly be able to turn proceedings into a rally bordering on farce. Those once tempted to serve as witnesses will allow fear to trump courage. This circus will now take place only weeks before an ANC conference at which Mrs Mandela is a candidate for ANC deputy president. If elected, she would likely emerge as South Africa's Deputy President in two years' time.

Neither the investigation of the charges against her nor her own political campaign should be allowed to continue in this fashion. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created to examine and — if the facts merited it — absolve violent acts committed under, and as a consequence of, apartheid. It has performed a difficult task with skill. Under no circumstances can the allegations of killings, kidnappings and torture that have been collected against Mrs Mandela be considered an unfortunate part of the struggle for national liberation. The proper place for them is South Africa's judicial system and the result of any convictions obtained should be imprisonment.

This is as much a test for the ANC as for the legal process. The movement has consistently failed to stand up to Mrs Mandela. This has progressively strengthened her position. Mr Mandela's reluctance to deal with his former spouse is understandable. But he and his anointed successor, Thabo Mbeki, now face the real prospect that she will shortly climb to a post from which it be impossible to constrain her. That may be avoided only if the President ensures that one single opponent stands against her and if he and Mr Mbeki crusade for that figure.

Mr Mandela has embraced his former opponents and is the living symbol of South Africa's settlement. He has encouraged the reorientation of the ANC from Marxism to markets. He has set a powerful example in international affairs. This outstanding legacy will be drastically undermined if he leaves office with Mrs Mandela anticipating power when many South Africans believe she should be awaiting prison. The ANC cannot expect to be taken seriously at home or abroad if it allows that to happen.

FAT CAN BE A FEMININE VIRTUE

This British television series roasts American food humbugs

Two fat ladies from the United Kingdom are making a splash in the United States. A new series of their television programme *Two Fat Ladies* begins on the BBC on Monday. It features typically extravagant canapés and name-dropping while preparing for a reception by the Brazilian Ambassador. And the British cult following for this larder-than-life cooking programme will enjoy (vicariously) blinis with lashings of sour cream, caviare and cigarette ash, louche old-girl asides, and trebles of a Brazilian drink made from rum and lime at the Dorchester afterwards.

Their success on American television, as our US Editor reports today, may seem at first taste more surprising. Their programmes have just had their première on the Food Network and have taken the American critics by storm. And this is odd, because these British heavyweight cooking champs are the opposites to all that is fashionable on American television. Even their name is wrong. As they might drawl, "ladies" sounds like a public convenience.

As cooks, Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright are parodically as well as politically incorrect. Their recipes are greedy with cream and brandy, fat and gossip. They smoke and sing while they cook, and lick their not obviously clean fingers, which are encrusted with nail varnish and antique rings. They do not believe in eating on an empty stomach. As television foody stars perform, they are both old, (there is no euphemising it) fat, indiscreet, and outrageously funny about the narcissistic conventional wisdom of a healthy diet. They dislike vegetables and hate vegetarians and dismiss modern hygiene as a terrible mistake. They proclaim that their mission is to cure the British and Americans of the Puritan ethic, to teach them how to enjoy life.

The British fat ladies go down a treat in America partly because they confirm American images of British eccentricity and snobbery, but also because most Americans do not conform to their television image of slim, young, exquisite salad-chewing joggers and drinkers of mineral water. T-bone steaks overlapping their plates and pecan pie *à la mode* also form part of the American dream. By some standards of Des Moines and Miami, our Two Fat Ladies are comparatively svelte: Two Average Women.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lessons of Tory leadership ballot

From Mr David Hurford-Jones

Sir, As a Conservative Party activist for more than 25 years I suspect that the letter in your columns from Mr Norman Lamont in support of William Hague (September 22; see also letters, September 20 and 24) may have been the kiss of death.

We all know that reform of the party structure is long overdue. But the most important element of that reform is to reform the system for electing the leader, so that the leader has the authority that comes from endorsement by the membership.

William Hague was not the choice of the constituencies and he was only the first choice of 25 per cent of our few remaining MPs. He promised during his campaign for the leadership that when the system had been reformed he would put himself up for re-election.

It is clear that by linking endorsement of his leadership to the outline of his reform agenda he is trying to avoid having to stand for re-election under the reformed electoral system against other candidates.

Furthermore, William Hague has been arguing against the Scottish devolution referendum on the ground that such a referendum should come after the details have been hammered out. But in this case we have been asked to vote for his reforms in advance of that.

It is all very unfortunate, but let us hope we can put these matters right when we have nearly five years before another election.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HURFORD-JONES
(Chairman, Burford Branch,
West Oxfordshire Conservative
Association),
Island House, Burford, Oxfordshire.
September 26.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, A principal objection to the radical changes proposed for future Conservative leadership elections is that the average constituency member is far less knowledgeable of political matters than MPs and certainly lacks their experience of daily contact with potential leaders.

One would therefore hope that the party will not accept the proposal to have a "one person, one vote" electoral system. But even an electoral college allowing party members a limited percentage of the total vote must be suspect for the same reasons.

Nobody could deny, on the other hand, that there are clearly valid objections to the present situation in which MPs representing only a quarter of the nation's constituencies decide who the next Conservative leader should be.

A solution would be to have an electoral college consisting of a variable percentage of the votes coming from MPs (depending on how many there are at the time of a leadership election) and the rest from the other Conservative candidates and Conservative Members who retired from Parliament at the previous general election.

This system would have two indisputable advantages. In almost all cases parliamentary candidates and former MPs have a much deeper knowledge of politics than constituency members, and since all these people will have been chosen by constituency members they would surely make ideal representatives.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST
(Chairman, Preseli Pembrokeshire
Conservative Association),
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.
September 25.

From Mr Carl Reader

Sir, I am incensed by the patronising comments of Sir Julian Critchley (letter, September 24) concerning one member, one vote. The people who pay "a paltry annual subscription" are also the people who knock on the doors at election times to get the likes of Sir Julian elected. We are also expected to raise money for the constituency associations.

The members of the ward committee which I chair wholeheartedly support William Hague's plans to give members a greater say in the formation of policy and in the election of the party leader. There is no alternative to one member, one vote. We are able to choose who we want to govern this country, yet are judged by Sir Julian to be incapable of choosing our party leader.

My hope is that the new Conservative Party will concentrate on becoming a truly mass-membership party.

Yours faithfully,
CARL READER,
4 Ketelbey Rise, Old Hatch Warren,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
September 24.

Feuding ministers

From Mr Alan Thompson

Sir, Your front-page report today, "Feuding ministers stall Blair reforms", brings comfort to those of us who were concerned that Frank Field might be eventually persuaded to surrender his legendary integrity in order to enhance the political security of others.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
Sun Haunt,
Little Bealings, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
September 26.

Church and State in Blair's Britain

From Mr Paul H. Tipler

Sir, Few readers could disagree with John Lloyd's assertion (article, "Blair is now the kingmaker", September 19) that both the Crown and Church, or at least the institutions, are in their different ways "leaning Left" and "deeply exhausted". This is however rather different from stating that "they have lost their faith and need to be saved".

I am not qualified to pass comment on the state of the monarchy; but as a Christian and church member for over 20 years, I find in parts of the Church that there is greatly increasing faith and confidence.

Lloyd credits the evangelical wing of the Church with a semi-fundamentalist enthusiasm, but then dismisses its members as "unable to develop a working model of faith in which rational people could wholeheartedly believe". Knowing many such people from all walks of life, I regard this simplistic statement as patently untrue, even of much of the established Church.

The Church has indeed become more radical; Jesus will always be radical compared to any current orthodoxy. It has therefore found some common ground with reforming elements within the new Labour Party. Surely this pro-active approach is a sign of modernising rather than shoring up the Church as Mr Lloyd suggests.

The Church's lack of media lustre would now seem to indicate strength as opposed to weakness, with the majority of its activity carried out behind the scenes.

I also tend to believe that Someone, other than new Labour, will continue to inspire its relevance to today's society. Those of us within the Church view our future through the eyes of faith as well as sight.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL H. TIPLER
(Member, National Council,
Movement for Christian Democracy),
3 Highfield Grove, Bristol, Avon.
September 21.

From the Editor of
The Church of England Newspaper

Sir, John Lloyd is only half right. Certainly the Church is facing an impressive challenge in the Blair Government's push towards modernisation of British society.

It may be that the Church's establishment will continue, but modernisation means more for the Church than simply "shoring up" its position. The Church of England is not dependent on its influence on the Government, and if disestablishment is to take place during the lifetime of a Blair administration its work will continue. But the Church will undoubtedly find a way to carry on its spiritual ministry to the nation, with or without bishops sitting in the House of Lords.

Mr Lloyd seems to imply that it is only the form of tradition which resonates with people, and the response to the funeral service for Diana, Princess of Wales, demonstrates that people do turn to the Church in times of grief. He should not forget that across the spectrum of churchmanship the Church is not dying. Indeed, both Tony Blair and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, owe their political inspiration to their faith.

Interestingly, Mr Lloyd admits that faith is evident at least on the evangelical wing, but it can be seen across the spectrum of churchmanship. Both archbishops, from different ends of that spectrum, are men of faith and can be trusted to work with Mr Blair to modernise the Church's relationship with the State. However, this does not mean that the Church is "leaning Left".

The Church does not depend on Labour and, while it is clearly willing to work with a Government that listens to its concerns, it would do well to remember that it cannot slavishly nail its colours to the new Labour mast.

Yours sincerely,
C. M. BLAKELY, Editor,
The Church of England Newspaper,
10 Little College Street, SW1.
September 19.

Need for inquiries

From the Chief Executive of SANE

Sir, According to "experts" interviewed by Alex Frean, inquiries into mental health tragedies are costly and achieve little (report, September 23). SANE would agree that most of the inquiries do report a total lack of communication between agencies and that any one health authority does not appear to learn any lessons from its neighbour.

However, what would happen if there were no inquiries? It would be rather like having an air crash and not investigating the "black box" to see how and why the accident occurred and allowing faulty aircraft to continue to fly — with obvious consequences. The argument that for every crash thousands travel safely does not justify shrugging our shoulders when a disaster happens.

In most instances the health authorities concerned will take on board the recommendations of the inquiry and eventually mental health services may improve. Surely this is better than allowing a fragmented system to persist whereby a vulnerable, mentally ill person can suffer such deterioration that he or she can commit homicide or, more likely, a lonely suicide.

I fully endorse Sir Louis Blom-Cooper in his reported conviction that inquiry teams should be given the right to revisit health authorities a year after the report to ensure that their recommendations have been implemented. That is the only way lessons might be learnt.

However, until those who are mentally ill get automatic access to treatment when they need it, for as long as they need it, then these tragedies will continue to happen.

The community has the right to know why and how the system failed sufferers, families and the public.

Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE WALLACE,
Chief Executive, SANE,
199-205 Old Marylebone Road, NW1.
September 24.

Threat to Parliament

From Professor Emeritus
L. Neville Brown

Sir, Lord Scarman's sweeping statement (letter, September 17) that we have incorporated Community law into our law without threat to Parliament's sovereignty is hard to reconcile with the fate of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1988.

Passed by Parliament expressly to stop quota-hopping by Spanish fishermen, the Act became a dead letter when adjudged contrary to Community law.

Yours faithfully,
L. NEVILLE BROWN
(Professor Emeritus of
Comparative Law),
The University of Birmingham,
Faculty of Law,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.
September 17.

Summary justice

From Mr Philip A. Fleming

Sir, With regard to the letter from Mr L. M. Oliver (September 15) concerning the suicide of a teacher who had been charged with possession of indecent photographs of a child; it is correct that this is a summary offence (Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988), but the penalty was increased with effect from February 3, 1995, by virtue of Section 86 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

The maximum penalty for the offence is now six months' imprisonment, or a fine, or both.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP A. FLEMING
(Crown prosecutor),
6 Acrefield Avenue,
Heaton Moor,
Stockport, Cheshire.
September 15.

Saudi law

From Mr Oliver Dines

Sir, The welfare of the British nurses awaiting sentence in Saudi Arabia (letters, September 26) — and incidentally the interests of British arms exporters — are not best served by our manipulating the decision of the Saudi judicial system as a means to criticise, question or undermine Islamic societies.

Both Sharia — a cornerstone of Islam and Saudi law — and Christianity embrace the virtues of compassion and mercy.

Appeals for these qualities to be upheld by the empowered King Fahd will bear no weight if burdened by hate and prejudice — be it racial or religious.

Yours sincerely,
OLIVER DINES,
176 Shepcot, Cowper Gardens, N14.
September 26.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Russian visas

From Mr Mark Dinan

Sir, The Russian Ambassador (letter, September 18; see also letter, September 10) is quite correct to draw attention to the plight of Russian citizens seeking UK visas.

I have had contact with a large number of Russian visitors over the past twelve months. They have all said that they were subjected to humiliating, lengthy and sometimes intimidatory interviews, with spouses often being interviewed separately. Many had friends who were refused visas without any obvious reason.

All claim that getting a British visa is an infinitely more difficult and unpleasant task than obtaining a visa from the US or another EU embassy, and that Britain alone has a policy of keeping Russian visitors to a minimum.

Such a reputation cannot be helpful for British business in what is becoming one of the world's most important markets.

Yours sincerely,
MARK DINAN,
28 Palace Court,
Adams Close, Surbiton, Surrey.
mdinan@compuserve.com
September 18.

No 1 Poultry sets feathers flying

From Mrs Sheila Jones

Sir, City of London workers were not wrong in objecting to Sir James Stirling's design. Number One Poultry ("Was this worth three decades of argument?", Marcus Binney, September 23) looks exactly as the artist's impression promised: like a stage set from *Aida* made of Battenberg cake.

Even more unsightly than 125 London Wall, the span of which adds insult to injury by blocking out the last bit of sky over the City, it is totally out of character, sympathy and architectural ethos with the City as a whole, let alone its hub. It jumps down your throat at every distant sighting from the streets fanning away from the Bank.

Whoever devises and sanctions these buildings should be locked in the Tower. Lucky Nicholas Ridley and James Stirling are released from the pain the rest will have to suffer every time we cross the Bank.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA JONES,
Old Broad Street Bureau Limited,
65 London Wall, EC2.
September 23.

From Sir Peter Kemp

Sir, Can Marcus Binney have actually seen the new Number One Poultry? Does he remember just how awful the old Mappin & Webb building was? Has he got the imagination to see how appalling the alternative prism-shaped affair would have been?

The new building is a vision of light and colour, something which uplifts the City and puts a spring in the stride of everyone who walks past it.

Yours etc,
PETER KEMP,
2 Longton Avenue, SE26.
September 23.

From Mr Edward J. O'Brien

Sir, Mr Marcus Binney will surely appreciate one great benefit of Number One Poultry. How are we and our children to judge what is good architectural design unless we are able to observe the bad?

I will never criticise the BBC building again.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD J. O'BRIEN,
48 Springfield, Cam, Gloucestershire.
edobrien1@compuserve.com

From Miss Elizabeth Lewis

Sir, Perhaps it is the colour, cream and pink; or perhaps it is the bulging form and cavernous maw; or perhaps it is the name; but to me the new building suggests an oven-ready supermarket chicken.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH LEWIS,
Frith Farm House,
Frith Lane, Wickham, Hampshire.
September 24.

Ask a silly question . . .

From Mr John McKibbin

Sir, In 1946 I recounted to a senior diplomat some of the questions put to me during the lengthy postwar examination for entry into the Foreign Service (letters, September 1, 10, 16, 20, 22).

He commented: "What a waste of time! In my day the answer to one question was enough — who's your bootmaker?" I quickly tucked my feet under the chair.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN McKIBBIN,
31 Northway, NW11.
September 23.

From Mr Mark Ashford

Sir, A candidate was undergoing the ordeal of the Admiralty Interview Board when the president, an Admiral or similarly terrifying figure, waved his hand at a map on the wall and invited him to "point to Murmansk". The candidate hadn't a clue, but, spying next to the map a photo of the Royal Family, he confidently stuck his finger on one of the corgis and said "It's that one, Sir!"

The interview concluded in breathless disarray and he went on to a successful career in the Senior Service.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ASHFORD,
79 Oliver Street,
Ampthill, Bedfordshire.

From Mrs Lesley Moule

Sir, My friend, being interviewed for a place to read geography at university, was given a piece of rock and asked what it was.

"A paperweight," she replied.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY MOULE,
17 Rivett Close,
Baldock, Hertfordshire.
September 22.

Thirsty work

From Dr George W. Scott

Sir, Celebrations are in order for the British team in Nevada on breaking the land speed record with 714mph (details, September 26). It is reported that the nearest bar is eight miles away across the desert. If they drive there it should take them 40 seconds.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SCOTT,
Pantiles,
Wilderness Road, Chislehurst, Kent.
September 26.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 26: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt (Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom) at the Funeral of Admiral Sir Derek Empson (formerly Vice Admiral of the United Kingdom) which was held in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Hambledon, Hampshire, this morning.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Admiral Sir John Brigstocke.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon opened Tim Jones House, the new Headquarters of Youth Clubs Sussex Limited, Rochester Gardens, Hove, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 26: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, this morning visited the Parkinson's Disease Brain Research Centre, University of London, London WC1.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, as President, Animal Health Trust, will attend a Charity Day at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder, Berwickshire, at 10.00.

Princess Margaret will attend the Festival of British Racing Day at Ascot, at 12.20, and will present The Queen's Trophy for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Trustee, the British Museum, will attend a trustees meeting at the museum at 10.00.

Luncheon

Sheriffs of the City of London
After their admission to the office of Sheriffs of the City of London, Mr Alderman and Sheriff David Howard and Mr Alderman and Sheriff Michael Oliver received the guests at the Sheriffs' Breakfast held yesterday at Drapers' Hall. Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, Judge Sir Lawrence Verney, Mr Alderman Clive Martin and Mr Keith Knowles were the speakers. Among others present were:

The Dowager Viscountess Leathers, Sir Edward Howard, Sir Ralph Perring, Commander Sir Robin Gillett, Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter Vanneck, Sir Francis McWilliams, Sir Colin Cole, Sir Richard Evans, Sir John Titman, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, the Queen's Remembrancer, Members of the Court of Aldermen and Court of Common Council, Masters of Livery Companies, former Sheriffs and Officers of the Corporation of London.

University news

London
Royal Holloway
Sir Robin McLaren, former Ambassador to China, has been appointed a member of College Council for a five year term of office.

Church news

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Roy Goodchild, Vicar, Ticehurst and Flimwell (Chichester) retired September 1.
The Rev Andrew Roff, Vicar, Gosforth St Nicholas (Newcastle) to resign October 31.

Other appointments
Captain Frank Fletcher, CA, Assistant Chaplain, HMP Highpoint (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich): has been appointed Chaplain, HMP Whealston (York).

Correction
The Rev Christine Mason, Assistant Curate, Blakenhall Heath (Lichfield): to be Team Vicar, Rugeley with special responsibility for The Holy Spirit (same diocese).

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Miss Diane Abbott, MP, 44; Dame Josephine Barstow, opera singer, 57; Sir Roger Birch, former Chief Constable, Sussex, 67; Baroness Blackstone, 55; the Earl of Clanwilliam, 78; Mr Michael Colvin, MP, 65; Miss Barbara Dickson, singer, 49; Mr Ronald Fox, senior partner, Fox Williams, 51; Vice-Admiral I.D.G. Garnett, 53; Mr J.K. Gill, former president, Saatchi and Saatchi, 77; Sir Alexander Graham, former Lord Mayor of London, 59; Mr Nicholas Haslam, interior designer, 58; Sir Peter Holmes, former chairman, Shell Transport and Trading Company, 65; Mr Gordon Honeycombe, broadcaster and author, 61; Mr Michael Houlihan, director, Horniman Museum and Gardens, 49; Mr Denis Lawson, actor, 50; Mr Donald Lindsay, former Headmaster, Malvern College, 87; Professor G.H. Martin, former Keeper of Public Records, 69; the Rev Professor D.E. Nineham, theologian, 76; Mr D.A.E.R. Peake, former chairman, Kleinwort Benson Group, 63; Dr Margaret Rule, consultant to the Mary Rose Trust, 69; Lord Shepherd, 79; Sir Gerald Warner, former deputy secretary, Cabinet Office, 66.

TOMORROW:
Lord Abinger, 83; Sir Nigel Althaus, former Government Broker, 68; Miss Brigitte Bardot, actress, 63; Professor Sir Colin Berry, morbid anatomist, 60; Lady Braye, 56; the Duke of Buccleuch, KT, 74; Sir Robin Buchanan, former chairman, NHS Supplies Authority, Wessex Regional Health Authority, 67; Lord Cockfield, 81; Mr Peter Egan, actor, 51; Dame Phyllis Friend, former chief nursing officer, DHSS, 75; Lieutenant-General S.C. Grant, 53.

Mr Mika Häkkinen, racing driver, 29; Sir David Hannay, diplomat, 62; Mr Lyndon Harrison, MEP, 50; Dr R.B. Heywood, former director, British Antarctic Survey, 60; Sir Trevor Hughes, water engineer, 72; Sir Jeremy Isaacs, former general director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 65; Mrs Alice Mahon, MP, 60; Miss Ellen Malcolm, painter, 74; Sir Peter Miller, former chairman, Lloyd's of London, 67; Miss Mary Moon, former Headmistress, Manchester High School for Girls, 65; Major E.S. Orr Ewing, Lord-Lieutenant of Wigtown, 66; Mr Jon Snow, television journalist, 50.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Samuel Adams, American independence leader, Boston, 1722; George Cruikshank, caricaturist, London, 1792; Louis Botha, 1st Prime Minister of South Africa 1910-19, Greytown, South Africa, 1862; Bernard Miles, actor, founder of the Mermaid Theatre, London, 1907.

DEATHS: William of Wykeham, chancellor, Bishop of Winchester, Bishop's Waltham, Hants, 1404; Edgar Degas, painter, Paris, 1917; Adelina Patti, Baroness Cederström, soprano, Craig-y-Nos Castle, near Swansea, Glamorgan, 1919; Engelbert Humperdinck, composer, Neustrelitz, Germany, 1921; Aristide Maillol, painter and sculptor, Banyuls-sur-Mer, 1944; Clara Bow, the "It" girl film star, Los Angeles, 1965; Dame Gracie Fields, singer, Capri, 1979.

The Society of Jesus was founded, 1540.

The Stockton-Darlington railway opened, 1825.

Europe's first "moving pavement", the travelator, opened at Bank Underground station, 1960.

The musical *Hair* opened in London, just one day after theatre censorship ended in Britain, 1968.

TOMORROW:
BIRTHS: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, painter, Caravaggio, Italy, 1573; Henry Fox, 1st Baron Holland, statesman, Chiswick, 1705; Prosper Merimee, writer, Paris, 1803; Francis Turner Palgrave, compiler of the *Golden Treasury of Lyrical Poetry*, Great Yarmouth, 1824; Georges Clemenceau, Premier of France 1917-20, Mouilleron-en-Pareds, 1841; Sir John Denton French, 1st Earl of Ypres, C-in-C of the British Expeditionary Force in France 1914-15, *Ripple, Kent*, 1852; Pietro Badoglio, Marshal of Italy and Prime Minister 1943-44, Grazzano, *Piedmont*, 1871; *Sir Charles Petrie*, historian, Liverpool, 1895; Peter Finch, actor, London, 1916.

DEATHS: Wenceslas, patron saint of Czechoslovakia, martyred, Stara Boleslav, 929; Thomas Day, author, killed by a fall from a horse at Wargrave, Berkshire, 1789; Herman Melville, novelist and poet, New York, 1891; Louis Pasteur, bacteriologist, St Cloud, France, 1895; Edwin Hubble, astronomer, San Marino, California, 1953; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, 1959; Arthur (Harpo) Marx, comedian, Hollywood, 1964; André Breton, Surrealist poet, Paris, 1966; Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt 1956-70, Cairo, 1970; Sir Robert Helpmann, dancer and choreographer, Sydney, 1986; Miles Davis, jazz trumpeter, Santa Monica, California, 1991.

The Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon, 490 BC.

Polish immigrant Simon Marks and Yorkshireman Tom Spencer opened their Penny Bazaar, Manchester, 1894.

The *Radio Times* was first published, 1923.

IAN DUNCAN

Gavin Townsend and Rachel Green, of Leadgate, near Consett, Co Durham, who have recently announced their engagement

Latest wills

Sir Tom Normanton, Conservative MP for Cheadle 1970-87, of Lymington, Hampshire, left estate valued at £146,517 net.

Dame Monica Golding, Matron in Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services 1956-60, of Holdenhurst, Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £182,296 net.
She left £1,000 each to the Soldiers and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association, Officers' Christian Union, the London City Mission, Retired Nurses National Home Fund, Tear Fund, and the RSPCA; £500 to the QARANC Benevolent Fund and to the Bible Society.

George Jack Hartridge **Horne**, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,722,000 net.
He left shares in his estate to the Scripture Gift Mission, the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, the RNLI, the NSPCC, the National Deaf Children's Society, RAF Benevolent Fund, Spurgeon's Child Care, the Winged Fellowship, the Chest Heart and Stroke Association, YMCA, Welfare of Women and Girls, the Baptist Missionary Tear Fund, the Ferring Baptist Church, The Salvation Army, The Bible Lands Society, Ashburnham Christian Trust, The British Red Cross, and the Down's Syndrome Association.

Maud Ethel **Barlow**, of Billingshurst, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,080,107 net.
She left £5,000 each to the Royal Star and Garter Home, the Spastics Society, the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, the NSPCC, the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, and St Catherines Hospice.

Norman Joyston **Bloch**, of London NW2, left estate valued at £1,443,439 net.
He left £25,000 shared between the Home for Aged Jews, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, the Samaritans and for the Howard Bloch Fund, Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Help the Hospices Appeals Office.

Daphne Goff **Caine**, of London SW3, left estate valued at £1,033,941 net.

Cicely **Chichester**, of Heavitree, Exeter, Devon, left estate valued at £1,128,468 net.
She left £2,000 to the Cats Protection League; £1,000 each to Exeter Cathedral, St Peter's Church, Brampford Speke, near Exeter and St Peter's Church, Shirwell, Devon.

Richard Arthur **Harrison**, of Wem, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,427,381 net.

Michael William **Ford**, of Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey, left estate valued at £956,604 net.

Harry Munro **Archibald**, of Sutton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,158,436 net.
He left £1,000 to the Caledonian Club; £2,000 to Trinity United Reform (Methodist) Church, of Sutton, and £10,000 to the University of Glasgow Trust.

Leslie George **Wilgoss**, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,170,231 net.
He left £375,000 equally to the following: the Certified Accountants Benevolent Association, the Cancer Research Campaign, the Royal Star and Garter Home and Kingston Hospital NHS Trust.

Andrew **Agnew**, of Crowborough, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,599,672 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. Bawden
and Miss M. Andrews
The marriage will take place today between Mr Clive Bawden, of Exeter, Devon, and Miss Marie Andrews, of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr E.A. Dean
and Miss L.N. Guthrie
The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr and Mrs E. Dean, of London, and Lynn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Guthrie, of Hyde Heath, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.R.A. Fell
and Miss N.M. Biggs
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr Alexander Fell, of The Coldoch, Stirling, and Mrs Robin Nicholson, of Claymoddie, Wigtownshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Biggs, of Woodseaves, Staffordshire.

Commander F. Gevers
and Miss M.D.S. McClure
The engagement is announced between Francis Gevers, of Brussels, Belgium, and Great Hampden, Buckinghamshire, and Deirdre McClure, of Edinburgh, formerly of Londonderry.

Mr G.F.G. Hudson
and Miss B.M. Lee
The engagement is announced between Grahame, eldest son of Professor and Mrs Christopher Hudson, of Thornwood Common, Essex, and Bernadette, youngest daughter of the late Mr Gerard Lee and of Mrs Maureen Lee, of Church Stretton, Shropshire.

Mr D.H. Johnson
and Miss S.C. Kramer
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs M.H. Johnson, of Little Kingshill, Buckinghamshire, and Shirley, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs V.E. Kramer, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr A.J. Ross
and Miss R.E. Fell
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Walter Ross, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fell, of Northwood, Middlesex.

Lieutenant Colonel A.W. Scott Elliot
and Miss F.G. Fuller-Shapcott
The engagement is announced between Alastair Scott Elliot, of Kippen, Stirlingshire, and Gail Fuller-Shapcott, of Stoke Gabriel, Devon. The marriage will take place quietly in Scotland.

Mr M.S. Williams
and Miss E.J. du Preez
The engagement is announced between Shaun, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Robert A. Williams, of Johannesburg and London, and Eugénie (Gigi), younger daughter of Mr H. Michael du Preez, FRCS, and Mrs du Preez, of Cape Town and Oxford.

Marriages

Mr M.H.R. Bashford
and Miss H. Welch
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 20, 1997, at St Helen's Church, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, of Mr Mark Bashford, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Bashford, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, to Miss Helen Welch, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Welch, of St Albans, Hertfordshire. The Rev J. Green officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss R. Scales, Mrs T. Wiltshire and Miss Z. Billingham. Mr Richard Crisp was best man.

A reception was held at The Luton Hoo and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr G. Ybazeta
and Miss M.M.R. Best
The marriage took place on Friday, August 15, 1997, at Bond Chapel, University of Chicago, USA, of Gustavo Ybazeta Aguilar, son of Rebeca Aguilar Torres vda de Ybazeta and the late Oscar Ybazeta, of Campodonico, Lima, Peru, to Mairi Mahon Ramsay Best, daughter of Janna Ramsay Best and Henry B.M. Best, of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, and Islay, Scotland.

Dinner

English-Speaking Union
Mr Tim Pigott-Smith was the guest of honour and speaker at the opening dinner of the annual English-Speaking Union conference held last night at the Stratford Victoria Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, presided and Mr Charles Barwell, ESU governor, also spoke.

Lady Brigstocke, Mr Peter Sparling, Chairman of the ESU National Council for England and Wales, Mrs Valerie Mitchell, ESU director-general, and Councillor Peter Hollingworth, Chairman of the ESU Birmingham branch, received the guests.

Service dinner

XX The Lancashire Fusiliers
XX The Lancashire Fusiliers held their Minden Club dinner last night at the Army and Navy Club. Colonel I.R. Cartwright presided. Lieutenant-Colonel A.J. Whistler, Deputy Colonel, Lancashire, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was the guest of honour.

THE DUKE OF YORK

Self-portrait of Prince Andrew (now the Duke of York) from the cover of his book published in 1985: *Photographs* by HRH Prince Andrew

ON THIS DAY

September 27, 1985

The Duke of York, well used to being photographed by the press, took his revenge when he turned the tables on Alan Hamilton of The Times

PICTURES BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

PRINCE ANDREW issued a breezy command: "Just sit there and look natural. I'm going to get a shot of your photographer taking a shot of me taking a picture of you."

I sat as commanded on the wall of the white summer-house in the Buckingham Palace rose garden, and did nothing in particular while the Queen's second son examined me through the screen of a Hasselblad camera presented to his mother on a state visit to Sweden, and bearing the royal cypher beside its film winder.

Prince Andrew ascribes his now passionate interest in the photographic art to three things: the Falklands War, watching a press cameraman shoot a feature on *HMS Invincible*, and Koo Stark.

"When I was in the Falklands for the first time there were excellent opportunities to take photographs, and to record from my point of view what went on and how I saw it. But I didn't have a camera with me … A photographer came out to do a sequence on us. I had the job of flying him around, and I got interested. So when I came back, I bought a camera."

And Koo? She had been asked to contribute to an exhibition of pictures by people who were not themselves photographers, but who were always being photographed. Miss Stark persuaded the Prince to enter some of his work.

Back at the summer-house, the Prince was snapping away with great enthusiasm, obvious enjoyment, and much joking, particularly at *The Times* photographer's struggle with a piece of faulty equipment. "Don't you want me to do anything?" I ventured, still maintaining my Rodin-like pose.

"No. I don't usually direct. I much prefer to sit back and let people get on with it, because you get a much more spontaneous photograph." Well, sometimes: but at least two of the pictures in his new book employ considerable artifice and trickery. One, seemingly the Lady of the Lake waiting to catch Excalibur, is in fact Miss Kate Rabett up to her neck in a pond at Frogmore on a cold February day with the sword hung from a fishing-line; while the other, mysteriously titled "The Ninth Wife", is a ghostly double exposure of Miss Finola Hughes in a cellar beneath the Curfew Tower of Windsor Castle.

"The great pleasure in taking photographs is that of giving pleasure to other people by being able to give them the photograph you have taken, and showing how good they can look. But I also like to take common sights from a different viewpoint, or with something funny on top of them."

Did not his position make it difficult for him to pursue his interest in peace?

"That's why the first part of my book is called *Windows, Roofs and Gardens*. They were all taken here (Buckingham Palace) or at Windsor. There is a certain amount of time and privacy here at weekends …" But his big problem is time. "The Falklands is a marvellous place to be but to get the right photograph you have to have the right equipment, and a lot of it. You've got to be in the right place at the right time, and doing the job I was doing that was very difficult. I haven't got photographs of the Falklands: I've only got snaps, but I would love to go back and do it properly."

Suddenly at the summer-house there was A Direction. "Go and look at me through the window in the back with your photographer. Oh, marvellous, you look like a Punch and Judy show." Was there, one wondered silently, a slightly gleeful getting-of-one's-own-back at the Newshounds?

We inspected the royal dark-room, converted from an old bathroom in the private quarters of the palace. Its owner admitted he had been down on hands and knees cleaning it out that very morning. Would he ever take up photography in a more serious, professional way?

"I don't know: we shall see. If somebody asked me to do something, and the time and the place were right, I would consider it, but my present job makes it difficult."

He plunged into a cupboard and from a filing cabinet withdrew a sheet of colour slides taken from his helicopter over the towering white mountains of South Georgia. We could not quite see the detail, so we went to one of the windows that overlook The Mall and the daily crowd around the railings, and drew aside the net curtain to hold them up to the light.

"The trouble with this," said Prince Andrew, "is that if they see us, they'll all start waving."

I felt an overwhelming desire to break all protocol, draw the veil fully aside, and encourage the crowd to do just that: what a splendid picture it would have made.

Rather better, I suspect, than his portrait of me.

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For Jesus's sake we are all our life being handed over to death, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in this mortal body of ours. 2 Corinthians 4 : 11

BIRTHS

ADAMOPOULOS - On September 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Lolly and Panos, a daughter, Paula Leo. Born at 19.22 hrs.

ALDABBAGH - On September 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Hanan Enany and Amr Aldabbagh, a daughter, Yasmeen.

BEAZLEY - On 25th September, to Sarah (née Flory) and Nicholas, a son, Hugo Tetley, a brother for Harriet, Camilla and Edward.

CLODE - On September 23rd, to Suzy (née Terner) and Alex, a wonderful son, Augustus Barnaby Luke, baby brother for Emelia and Frederick.

CONIBEAR - On 22nd September, to Fiona and Tony, a daughter, Joanna Isla, a sister for Elspeth and Ailsa.

GLAYSHER - On September 24th at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Stuart and Sindy, a beautiful daughter, Bethany Rose.

KRYGIER - On September 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Maple and Markus - a daughter, Maxine Alexandra.

MACARTHUR - Max and Debbie Macarthur are delighted and very proud to announce the birth of Olivia Alice on the 13th (lucky for us) of September. P.O. Box 2333 Reading RG4 7FB.

PITMAN - On 17th September, to Aimée (née Hampson) and David, a daughter, Katherine Aimée.

BIRTHS

SALMON - On September 23rd 1997, to Annette (née Matz) and Tom, a daughter, Amelia Kate Isabel, a sister for James.

STEPHENSON/WITCHELL - On 21st September at The Portland Hospital, to Carolyn and Nick, a daughter, Giselle Ophelia Lili, a sister for Arabella.

WEBB - On September 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Mary-Ann and Jonathan, a daughter, Madeleine Phoebe, a sister for Isobel.

WEYHAUSEN - On 20th September at The Portland Hospital, to Karen (née Finegan) and Ernst, a son, Ernst Gustav.

WOLMAN - On September 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Astrid (née Korf) and Richard, a son, Maximilian Henry.

WYLIE - On September 23rd, to Seamus and Camilla, a daughter, Matilda Kate, a sister for Alice and Isabella.

MARRIAGES

HAMADÉ:ANDERSON - At Raven's Ait, London, on September 21st 1997, between Mr Ramez Hamadé, son of Dr. Prue Hamadé and the late Mr Adib Hamadé and Miss Patricia Jane Anderson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Anderson.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

KEER:TROUP - Martin and Lee of Blockley, Glos. 27th September 1947.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

RAISON - Maurice and Mary. Congratulations on fifty years, Paula, Gerald, Thomas and Zak.

DEATHS

BARTON - Marjorie, (née Lumsden), 25th September 1997 peacefully at home. Dearly loved wife of Harry and dearly loved mother of Anthony and Charles, whose families share their deep grief, as do her sisters-in-law, Diana and Barbara, and their families. Funeral private. No flowers by request. Donations to UNICEF c/o W.J. O'Brien & Son, 5 Station Road, Eglinton, Co. Derry.

BOYD - Helen Margaret died peacefully after a short but unexpected illness on Saturday 13th September. Dear wife of the late Dr. Joseph Lister and much loved mother of Duncan. Memorial Service on Friday 14th November at 2 pm at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London W1. Donations to Canine Defence League c/o J.H. Kenyon Ltd., 83 Westbourne Grove, London W2, tel: (0171) 229-3810.

DEATHS

CROOKES - Douglas, Lt. Col. retired Royal Signals. Peacefully on 23rd September 1997. Will be sadly missed by his loving wife Marguerite and family. Service to take place at Aldershot Crematorium on Friday 3rd October 12.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Tanner Ward Trust Fund, Farnham Hospital c/o E. Finch & Sons, 123 High Street, Aldershot GU11 1TT, (01252) 22281.

CROSTHWAITE-YOUNG - Jill, aged 69 on September 25th 1997 peacefully in hospital after a second stroke. Dearest wife of Ken, beloved mother of Mark and Sarah and much loved gran of James and Harriet. Funeral Thursday 2nd October at 2.45 pm Putney Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only, no letters please. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, 68 Parsons Green Lane, Fulham SW6 4HU, tel: (0171) 736-2939.

DAWSON - On 25th September in the Horton General Hospital, Banbury. Anthony M. Dawson K.C.V.O. M.D. F.R.C.P. aged 69 years. Private cremation service. No flowers please, but donations if desired for the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund c/o J&M Humphris, 32 Albert Street, Banbury OX16 8DG.

DICKSON - On September 24th peacefully at *Linford Park*, Joyce Mary Dickson M.B.E. née Curzon-Howe, aged 91. Wife of the late Lt. Col. T.E. Hussey and the late Rear Admiral R.K. Dickson C.B., D.S.O. Stepmother of Elizabeth Dickson and Aunt of Sally Dangerfield. Funeral Service at Ringwood Parish Church on Monday October 6th at 1.15 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Red Cross Society, Ringwood Branch may be sent to Barrow Bros., Funeral Directors, 2 Nursery Road, Ringwood, Hants. BH24 1NG.

PITMAN - Elizabeth Cattanach died peacefully at home at Foxley Green, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, on Monday 22nd September 1997 aged 88. Widow of Captain Jack Pitman who was killed on active service in 1943 and devoted and much loved mother of Hugh, Giles and Lavinia. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Sherston Church at 3.30pm on Saturday 11th October. No flowers please.

ROLLO - Eric John Stapylton, 13th Lord Rollo and Baron Dunning, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, peacefully on 25th September. Funeral private.

WILLIAMS - Anthony (Ant) suddenly in New York on September 23rd. Much loved husband of Pam. Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Church, Baylham, Suffolk on Thursday 2nd October at 3 pm. No flowers please. Donations if wished to St Peter's Church, c/o The Rectory, Great Blakenham, Suffolk IP6 0LS.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

KENNEDY - Grace. 28th September 1994. Beloved mother and best friend. Your loving presence so much missed. Carol.

SCADENG - Douglas Doffee, 22/5/24 - 27/9/47. Fondly remembered by his sisters.

BIRTHDAYS

PETER HORTHEY Happy 70th Birthday on 28th September 1997. 01837 840683

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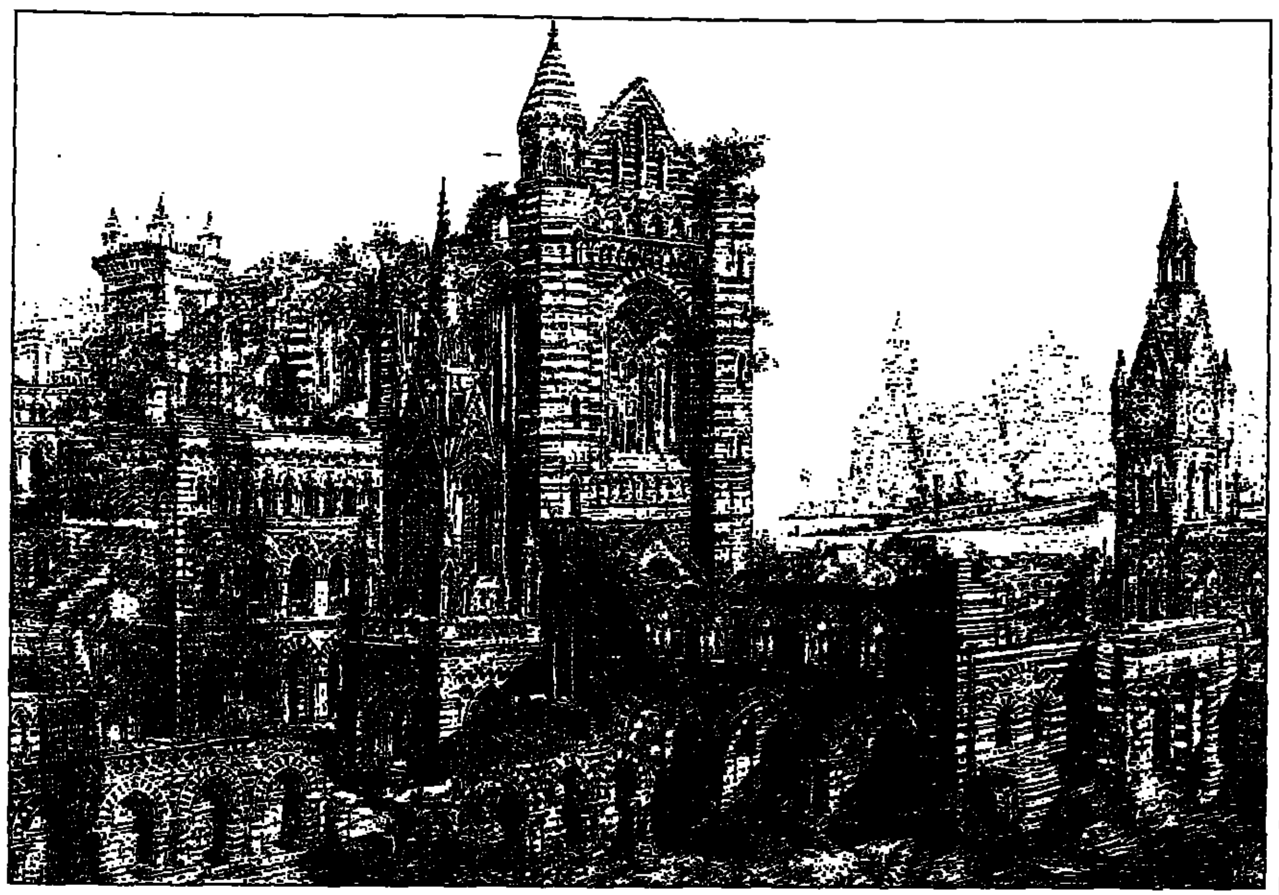
هكذا من الاعلام

OBITUARIES

TOM GREEVES

Tom Greeves, architectural conservationist and draughtsman, died on August 31 aged 80. He was born on June 4, 1917.



The Battleship, 1974, one of Tom Greeves's vividly imagined urban landscapes

As well as being a pen-and-ink draughtsman of remarkable sensitivity and imagination, Tom Greeves made an important contribution to the protection of Victorian London. As a founder member of the Victorian Society in 1957 he was active in limiting the postwar demolitions, and he was later instrumental in saving from redevelopment the delightful 19th-century artists' and aesthetes' community of Bedford Park, Chiswick, where he lived.

Thomas Affleck Greeves first showed his unusual artistic gifts as a schoolboy at Radley, and it was recommended that he go to the Slade. But the diet of figure-drawing he found there could not diminish a childhood interest in architecture and machines. The sight of the huge airship R101 floating gracefully over his prep school playing fields in Elstree, and his discovery of books about ancient and Victorian architecture in the library at Radley, had already begun to form a gently subversive sensibility. A sudden revelation of the towers and spires of St Pancras Station on one morning of misty sunlight was also a formative experience.

He recognised the deeply romantic potential of 19th-century townscapes at a time when the great and the good eagerly anticipated wide demolition. He could never have expressed such feelings fully through his intended career in architectural practice, and the interruption of his training at Cambridge by the outbreak of war led to an experience which further shaped and directed his creative imagination. In 1942 a three-year attachment to the Indian Army took him to the North-West Frontier Province and a world of mosques, palaces, rock-cut temples and overgrown ruined cities. The gradually decaying Victorian Gothic buildings of the British Raj were no less striking, and their curious juxtaposition with tropical vegetation added an exotic element to Greeves's imaginative landscape, which was already emerging in delicately executed ink drawings of drama and force.

Greeves had discovered Piranesi as a schoolboy, and was to be much influenced by the etchings of Charles Meryon, and F. L. Griggs, in whose imaginary medieval townscapes he recognised the work of a kindred spirit. After the war his training was completed at the Architectural Association, but he eventually abandoned professional practice to pursue his own vision through drawing.

He came to public notice in 1951 as the winner of the Architects' Benevolent Society competition to design a monument to the Good Old Days of Architecture. Greeves's winning drawing displayed the humour that was an essential ingredient of all he did.

This was even more pronounced in the strange flying machines which appeared in *The Saturday Book* in 1966 and 1967. *The Assisted Take-off* shows a steam-powered airliner of wood and canvas, belching coal smoke as it struggles into the air from a massive Italianate brick and stucco ramp. In another illustration, a spreading steam palace ascends slowly but violently in clouds of vapour and dust, scattering onlookers to right and left.

Few contemporaries could match Greeves's understanding of light and atmosphere, and although it is tempting to compare it to the theatrical *chiaroscuro* of Piper and other Neo-Romantic artists, a drawing such as *The Country House*, with the delicate melancholy of its late winter afternoon sunlight, is unmistakably Greeves's.

Watching London's skyline of spires and domes being gradually diminished by corporate leviathans caused Greeves real anguish, and he was one of the distinguished group (including Nikolaus Pevsner, John Betjeman, J. M. Richards, Hugh Casson and Osbert Lancaster) that met at 18 Stafford Terrace in November 1957 to found the Victorian Society.

His greatest personal achievement in building conservation was the saving of Bedford Park, the early garden suburb of Chiswick where charming tile-hung, red-brick "Queen Anne" houses had been built by Godwin, Norman Shaw and E. J. May to house a community of artists, writers and aesthetes.

Greeves moved there with his wife, Eleanor, in 1951. Here they lived in the spirit of the place, as true "Bedford Parkers", with Tom drawing and playing Bach and Scarlatti on the fortepiano, and Eleanor designing and printing decorative wall tiles. But at that time the whole area was under threat from private developers and council building projects. Thanks to his determination and persistence, Greeves won recognition and then, in 1967, statutory listing for these delightful buildings.

Before his illness he was a familiar figure around Bedford Park, conducting guided walks which very often ended in the snug of the Tabard Inn. Here, among the De Morgan tiles and painted woodwork of Norman Shaw's interior, students of architecture and urban design could share the insights and vivid memories of this genial, cultivated and gifted guardian of historic townscapes real and imaginary.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor.

JIMMY WITHERSPOON

Jimmy Witherspoon, blues singer, died on September 18 in Los Angeles aged 74. He was born on August 8, 1923.

JIMMY WITHERSPOON was one of the last great blues shouters, a muscular breed of black American vocalists (including Joe Turner, Wynonie Harris and Eddie Vinson) who had to shout to be heard above the blaring brass sections and electrified rhythms of the jump bands that backed them.

In the bars and clubs of the big cities in the immediate postwar years, the bands that had evolved out of the larger territory bands of the 1920s and 1930s would create a new form of black music called rhythm and blues, and so turn Witherspoon into a jukebox favourite. But when fashions changed in the late 1950s, he was able to find equal success in the jazz field, before the blues world reclaimed him during the blues boom of the late 1960s. His recording career spanned 50 years, and he was as much at home with the jazz giant Ben Webster as he was, in later decades, with the white blues guitarist Robben Ford.

Jimmy Witherspoon was born in Gurdon, Arkansas, and sang as a child at the local baptist church where his mother played piano. He moved to California during his teens and ended up washing dishes before joining the Merchant Marine during the Second World War. It was while stationed in Calcutta that he was invited to sing with the American bandleader and pianist Teddy Weatherford, who had a residency at the city's Grand Hotel.

After his discharge in 1944 he auditioned for the bandleader Jay McShann, who had just lost his star vocalist Walter Brown. Recalling the audition, Witherspoon told the rock historian Arnold Shaw: "I was wearing a lieutenant junior grade uniform. I was chief cook and steward in the Merchant Marine, but I looked like a Japanese admiral with my braids and all."

He got the job and made his first records with the band in Los Angeles in 1945. He built up a solid reputation with his warm, rich and exuberant vocals and was soon cutting records under his own name, including the two-part *Ain't Nobody's Business*, which stayed on the *Billboard* rhythm amd blues chart for 34 weeks in 1949.

He went to record for the Los Angeles-based Modern label, where he enjoyed a double-sided hit with *No Rollin' Blues* and *Big Fine Blues* and also recorded *Real Ugly Woman*, one of the first songs by a pair of music-mad high school pupils called Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

But as rhythm and blues developed into rock 'n' roll, Witherspoon found himself sidelined, until a surprise appearance at the 1959 Monterey Jazz Festival relaunched his career. He revelled in the company of such stars as Ben Webster, Gerry Mulligan and Jack McDuff, and found a whole new legion of fans. He became a frequent visitor to Europe but refused to be categorised as a jazz singer. "That's a dirty word, I'm a singer and I'm a blues singer and I'm an American singer," he told *Living Blues* magazine in 1977.

Later came flirtations with rock and a partnership with the former Animals singer Eric Burdon, as well as a fruitful relationship with the guitarist Robben Ford. In between tours he also became a disc jockey on American radio.

It was while touring Britain in 1984 that he was diagnosed with throat cancer and taken to hospital in Manchester for emergency treatment. After a long period of recuperation he returned to performing, with a voice that was deeper but far less powerful than before. "I had radiation on my throat and turned an octave deeper," he told the audience when he appeared at London's Jazz Café for a short set last year. On that occasion he looked jaunty enough in a pinstripe suit, but the magnificent voice was gone. The timing and the phrasing, however, showed him still a master of his craft.

He is survived by his wife, Diana, and three children.

BILL HUNTER CHRISTIE

Bill Hunter Christie, barrister and campaigner for the Falkland islanders, died on September 22 aged 75. He was born on August 18, 1922.

BILL HUNTER CHRISTIE belonged to that great English tradition of independently minded individuals with nonconformist, outsiders' temperaments, who espouse and champion causes without regard to authority, popularity or self-interest. Over the centuries such people have brought honour and probity to public life and have sometimes, by sheer persistence, managed to change orthodox opinion and occasionally to move government policy.

Eric William Hunter Christie was such a figure. The son of a Queen's Counsel, and the grandson of an Astronomer Royal, he was educated at Marlborough and, after going straight into the Coldstream Guards at the age of 18, eventually read for the Bar himself, being called by Lincoln's Inn (of which his father had served as Treasurer) in 1952.

A highly able man with a lucid mind, he sacrificed the chance of a conventionally successful career at the Bar in order to devote his legal talents to deserving causes that interested him. One example was the Inland Waterways Association and its fight to keep the network intact.

However, he will principally be remembered as the person who kept the Falkland Islands British at a time when successive governments were tempted to regard them as an awkward inheritance from Empire that threatened to complicate Britain's relationship with Argentina.

If the attempted negotiating visits paid to the Falklands first by a Labour and then by a Tory junior minister at the Foreign Office — Ted Rowlands in 1977 and Nicholas Ridley in 1980 — both came to nothing, it was largely because each ran into the roadblock of a parliamentary veto effectively erected by the lobbying efforts of Hunter Christie.

He certainly had the background for such a task. Having been badly wounded in 1943, he was invalided out of the Army and the following year joined the South American department of the Foreign Office.

Between 1946 and 1948 he served as Third Secretary at the British Embassy in Buenos Aires, where he met President Perón. Indiscreetly, Perón told him that in order to deflect political unrest from his Government he proposed to reassert Argentina's dormant claim to the Falkland Islands.

Hunter Christie's curiosity was immediately aroused, and his interest in South Atlantic issues was sealed by his spending the following two years, 1948-50, at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He published the results of his work there in *The Antarctic Problem* (1951).

As early as 1968, Falkland Island councillors suspected that Harold Wilson's Labour Government was secretly negotiating sovereignty with Argentina, and appealed for help. The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee was formed in response to this appeal, with the aim of obtaining official recognition of the right of the islanders — who numbered fewer than 2,000 — to determine their own destiny. Hunter Christie was a founder member of this committee, served as its honorary secretary (1968-78) and throughout played a leading role in its work.

For 25 years he was "Mr Falklands", consulted and respected by politicians, diplomats and writers, many of whom rejected his opinions but found that they could not ignore them. His views were stubbornly and uncompromisingly held — like those of the islanders themselves — but he saw further and more clearly than most.

It is certainly the case that if the British Government had listened to the advice of the Falklands Islands Committee there would have been no Argentine invasion in 1982, and no need to dispatch the task force. A series of discussion papers on military and economic matters was produced by the committee, and many of the ideas advanced were later developed in the Shackleton reports, one before the invasion and the other afterwards.

A great deal of the early work designed to establish a fisheries regime off the Falklands — with an unusually wide fishing limit — was done by Hunter Christie and the South Atlantic Fisheries Committee. The present prosperity of the islands is a direct consequence of their initiative.

To the end of his life nothing delighted Hunter Christie more than to rehearse the story of a visit he once paid with a deputation to a Foreign Office minister, in whose room a senior civil servant solemnly assured the assembled gathering that "there are no fish in the South Atlantic".

Hunter Christie was a remarkable man, with the ability to inspire people, particularly the young, to support the causes he championed. He possessed an exciting and original mind, great energy and courage. He committed everything to the campaigns in which he believed.

In 1993 the Falkland islanders recognised his work for them by awarding him the Freedom of Port Stanley. He valued this more than any more conventional honour he might otherwise have received by following a more orthodox career path.

He is survived by his wife, Merle, from whom he was separated, two sons, two daughters, and his companion, Lynn, with whom he shared the last years of his life.

MILESTONES

Viscount Tonypandy, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1976-83, died on September 22 aged 88. He was born on January 29, 1909.

George Thomas, the son of a Rhondda miner, was born in Port Talbot and educated at Tonypandy Secondary School and University College, Southampton. He joined the Labour Party in 1925, and delivered his first political speech when only 18. In 1936 he led a hunger march from Tonypandy to Cardiff. A committed left-winger, he won the Cardiff Central seat in 1945. He became Secretary of State for Wales in 1968 for two years, but he was not in the Government formed by Harold Wilson in March 1974. He was the first Speaker in the age of broadcasting from the Commons, and became famous as a result. During this year's general election, he gave his support to the Referendum Party.

Obituary published on September 23.

Diana Duchess of Newcastle, jockey and master of foxhounds, died on September 19 aged 77. She was born on June 2, 1920.

Diana Montague-Stuart-Wortly-Mackenzie, the second daughter of Viscount Carlton, was born into a family with a long tradition of hunting and racing. Their house party for the Doncaster races was, until the Second World War, the biggest in the country. In 1946 she married the 9th Duke of Newcastle, whose sporting interests were sadly different. After 1950 they lived apart, and they were divorced in 1959. The Duchess then became very active in the point-to-point and racing worlds, and also entered the Monte Carlo Rally. She campaigned for women to be allowed to race on the flat in mainland Britain, and while waiting for the Jockey Club to change its rules rode races at many of Europe's most famous courses. After 1972, when she was 52, she managed to race at Doncaster, Salisbury and Folkestone.

Obituary published on September 24.

Admiral Sir Derek Empson, GBE, KCB, naval aviator and Second Sea Lord, 1971-74, died on September 20 aged 78. He was born on October 29, 1918.

Derek Empson served the Navy for nearly four decades, and his experiences encompassed the whole history of Royal Navy aviation, from the ill-equipped struggles of the early war years to the postwar heyday of high-performance, jet-propelled aircraft operating from huge aircraft carriers. By the end of the 1940s he had achieved a remarkable 782 deck landings without a single incident. After command of the fleet carrier *Eagle*, he became a full admiral in 1972, and served as Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom, 1986-88.

Obituary published on September 26.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SEARCHING for family of Sid Sheridan, late of Tasmania, Australia. Family members in the UK are Mrs Elizabeth, Charles and James Dance of Woking and Mrs Agnes Pointon, Stratford on Avon circa 1945. 117 Macquarie St. George Town, Tasmania, 7253.

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POUT Dorothy Joan late of 10 Wendover Close, Yeading, Hayes, Middlesex who died on 24th May 1997. Particulars to Keith Hall, Juvller & Co., 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9AG Before the 28th November 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

RAM, EDWARD DAVID ABEL of London NW1 died on 22 October 1996 particulars to WITHERS Solicitors of 12 GOUGH SQUARE, LONDON EC4A 3DE before 28 November 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

HARRIS, ISADORE (otherwise JACK) formerly ISIDORE STROLOWITZ of 19 Corners, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1RL died on 1 July 1997 particulars to CHAMBERS RUTLAND & CRAUFORD Solicitors of 375 REGENTS PARK ROAD, FINCHLEY, LONDON N3 1DE before 28 November 1997

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
ASPHALTIC (HOLDINGS) PLC
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Peter Richard Copp of BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 1 July 1997 by the members.
Dated September 23 1997
Peter Richard Copp Liquidator

COUNTERPOINT LIMITED AND COUNTERPOINT RESEARCH LIMITED
(Both in the Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K P Barry, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Companies by the members and creditors on 23rd September 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated this 23rd September 1997.
K P Barry, FCA, Liquidator.

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss –
1	Vodafone	Telecomms	
2	BBA	Engin'ing	
3	ASW	Engin'ing	
4	Cap Shop Ctrs	Property	
5	Rio Tinto	Mining	
6	Swallowfield	House Gds	
7	Cable&Wire	Telecomms	
8	Essex Furn	Ret Gen	
9	Blockleys	Bld Mats	
10	Pilkington	Bld Mats	
11	Securicor	Telecomms	
12	Trinity Intl	Media	
13	Porvair	Chemicals	
14	P & O Dfd	Transport	
15	Lon Forfaiting	Oth Fin	
16	REXAM	Print Pap	
17	Bemrose	Print Pap	
18	Dencora	Property	
19	Imperial Tob	Div Inds	
20	Gld Flds Pr	Ming	
21	Rentok'l Id	Sup Serv	
22	Jones Stroud	Textiles	
23	Limelight	Ret Gen	
24	Forth Ports	Transport	
25	Sthern Pacific	Mining	
26	Seacon	Transport	
27	BG	Oil & Gas	
28	Reckitt Colm	House Gds	
29	Bunzl	Print Pap	
30	Bradford	Property	
31	Irish Life	Insurance	
32	Allied Text	Textiles	
33	EFM	Oth Fin	
34	FS Dev	Mining	
35	Sons Gwalia	Mining	
36	Cortecs	Pharm'cals	
37	Evander	Mining	
38	Utd Ass	Insurance	
39	Harsn Crsfld	Divinds	
40	Carclo Eng	Engin'ing	
41	Mang Brnz	Eng	
42	C'tauld Txt	Texils	
43	Brammer	Distrib's	
44	Inspec	Chemicals	
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هكذا من الاعلى

HOT SEAT 30
Guy Hands:
the risk-taker
at Nomura

BUSINESS

WEEKEND
MONEY
SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Shares surge to record level as sterling takes a beating

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market stormed to a record high and the pound plunged as speculation that Britain will make an early entry into a European single currency reached fever pitch.

Traders seized on reports that the Government is moving towards a more pro-EMU stance as evidence that Britain could join a single currency as soon as 2000.

Although the Treasury moved swiftly to dismiss the reports as "speculation", the City was predicting that a firm announcement on the Government's plans for EMU could be made as early as next week at the Labour conference.

The FTSE 100 closed up 160.8 points at 5,226.3, the biggest one-day points gain for ten years. The rise added nearly £30 billion to the value of the index. The stock market's meteoric rise was also aided by a rise on Wall Street after a downwards revision in US second-quarter GDP figures.

Gilt prices also climbed steeply with the benchmark December gilt contract leaping £1 9/16 to close at £119 9/16, while the spread with German bunds narrowed by two basis points to 98.

While shares and bonds soared on expectations that EMU entry will mean lower interest rates, the pound went into reverse as it lost its "safe haven" status. The pound slipped to a four-month low against the German mark during trading, before settling down four pfennigs at DM2.8324. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped 1.4 points to 99.7, while the pound lost two cents to $1.6053.

Economists said that the pound was also suffering because the Government is likely to want to enter EMU at levels closer to DM2.50. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, added that by stirring speculation about UK entry into EMU, the Government was capping gilt yields and edging sterling lower "without precipitating a currency crisis."

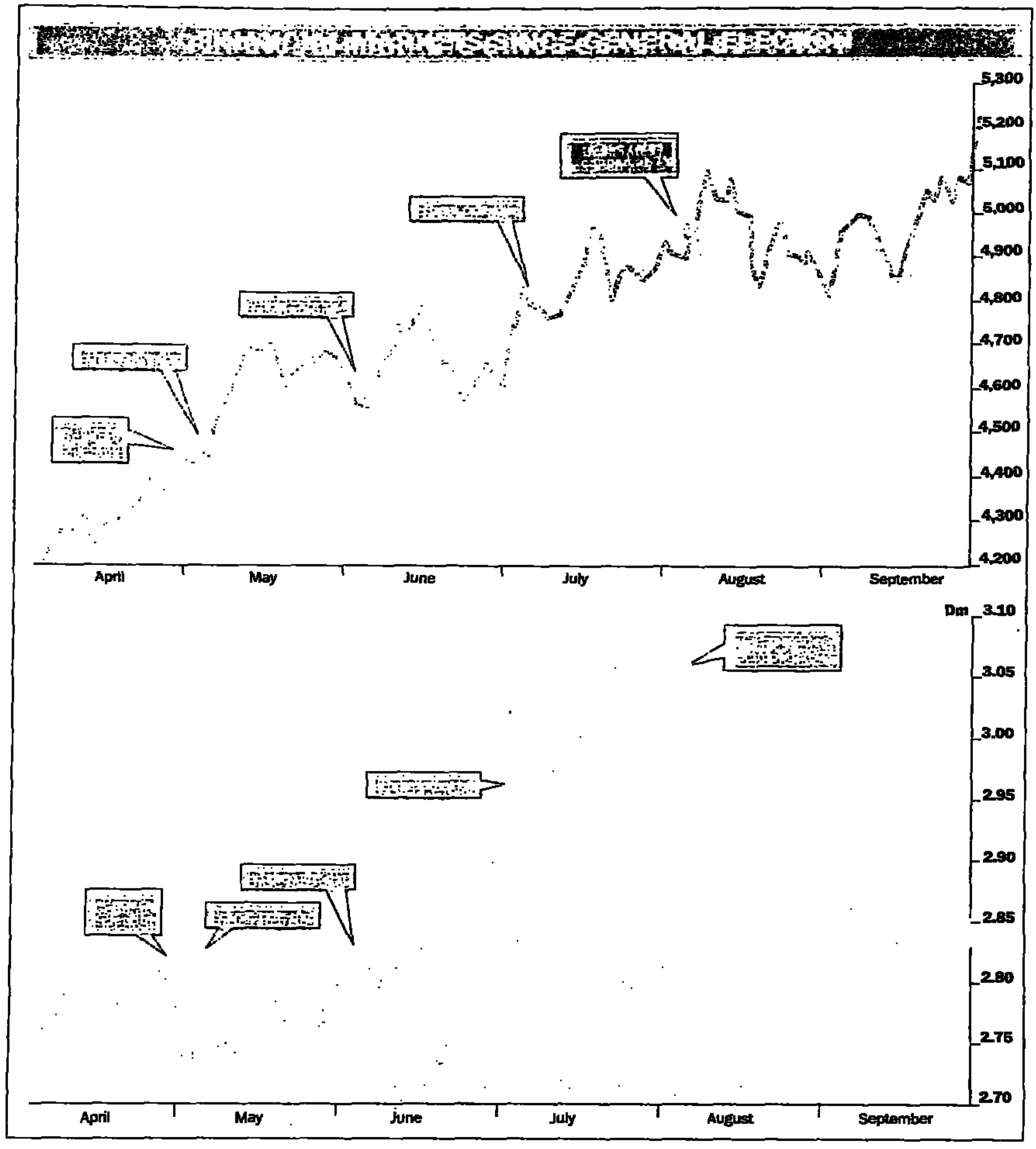
Economists also cautioned about the short-term outlook for the market, pointing to the fact that the fall in sterling made it more likely that the Bank of England will raise rates. Philip Shaw, UK economist at Investec, said; "The fall in sterling has eased the Bank's policy dilemma making a rate rise more likely."

Financial service sector stocks led the stock market higher with analysts calculating that higher bond prices and lower interest rates will boost profits. Barclays jumped 135½p to £16.64½. Nat West rose 85½p to 932½p while Lloyds TSB was 45p better off at 820½p. Industrial and manufacturing stocks also enjoyed a strong showing as the pound tumbled. GKN climbed 89½p to £14.19, while TI rose 55p to 661½p.

Businesses with a strong European presence gave a warm welcome to the reports. Peter Foster, finance director at Commercial Union, said: "Given the fact that we have such major operations within continental Europe, we would certainly find a lot of attractions in joining in with a common European currency."

British Steel, which has seen profits tumble over the past year due to the strength of the pound, cautioned on joining at the current high level of the pound. John Rennocks, executive of director of finance, said the company would welcome the more stable currency outlook if the UK joined EMU.

Commentary, page 29
Stock market, page 31



Homes lending drops 11% in August

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANK mortgage lending slowed in August providing the first tentative evidence that interest rate rises are beginning to depress the housing market.

The British Bankers Association monthly lending figures showed gross lending totalled £2.77 billion in August, a fall of 11 per cent from July.

The seasonally adjusted measure of net mortgage lending — which takes into account repayments of mortage debts — rose by £753 million last month against £880 million in July and well below the recent monthly average.

The number of new approvals slipped back 17 per cent to 37,381, while their total value declined 18 per cent to £2.72 billion. The BBA said these falls were well below those recorded in August last year.

But the average value of approvals rose 4 per cent to £59,300.

Tim Sweeney, BBA director-general, said: "It may be that recent increases in interest rates have started to have some effect, though a clearer picture may emerge once overall mortgage industry figures for the month are published."

Mr Sweeney said it was clear that the housing market recovery had been accompanied by "steady rather than spectacular growth in mortgage lending".

The BBA warned that the figures were not the final proof of a slowdown in the housing market as falls in August were not unusual and comparisions with last year had been distorted by inclusion of the National & Provincial business for the first time in last August's figures.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5226.3	(+160.8)
Yield	3.12%	
FTSE All share	2445.86	(+66.49)
Nikkei	17994.71	(-347.25)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7908.92	(+60.91)*
S&P Composite	943.69	(+5.78)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5½%*	([illegible]%)
Long Bond	100[illegible]*	(99[illegible])
Yield	6.37%*	(6.41%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7¼%	(7¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	119 9/16	(118)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6105*	(1.6285)
London:		
$	1.6058	(1.6164)
DM	2.8337	(2.8751)
FFr	9.5099	(9.6571)
SFr	2.3389	(2.3982)
Yen	194.41	(196.71)
£ Index	99.7	(101.1)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.7595*	(1.7605)
FFr	5.9090*	(5.9145)
SFr	1.4526*	(1.4490)
Yen	120.83*	(120.95)
$ Index	105.3	(105.1)
Tokyo close Yen 120.86		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	$19.40	($19.15)
GOLD		
London close	$327.25	($327.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Takeover bid lifts shares in T&N

BY GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in T&N, the vehicle components group laid low by asbestosis claims, soared 60p to 242½p after it revealed a takeover approach from Federal Mogul, the Michigan car components group.

The approach, at 235p a share, values T&N at £1.23 billion. Analysts believe a counterbid from another American group is likely. T&N responded by saying it was evaluating the bid with N M Rothschild, its advisers.

Federal Mogul has annual sales of $2 billion (£1.25 billion) against almost £2 billion for T&N in 1996; employs 14,000 around the world and has a European headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany.

One analyst said: "It's certainly an offer that T&N shareholders will have to consider," adding that it remained to be seen if T&N recommended the bid.

Another analyst said that the Federal Mogul bid undervalues T&N, which he believes is worth up to 250p a share. He said the company should stress its global market position, its engineering strengths and the fact that margins are recovering in many of its markets, and move the market's focus away from its "bad reputation" on asbestos.

Tempus, page 31

Cash is king for 43% of Northern Rock holders

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

NEARLY half of Northern Rock customers have opted to sell their shares immediately in an auction to be held on the eve of the society's flotation next week. The society estimates about 43 per cent of its members will sell their entire holding of 500 shares through the Hoare Govett facility.

They are selling their shares, in spite of the fact that it will cost them £10. The Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Halifax, all offered free share dealing facilities. Approximately a quarter of the shares in these three converted societies were sold by investors immediately.

In spite of the high number of people selling out, City Index, the financial bookmaker, forecasts that shares in the Northern Rock could reach between 420p and 433p when the society makes its stock market debut on October 1. This would give each of Northern Rock's 900,000 members an average windfall of £2,100 — higher than nearly all the other converting societies.

Northern Rock's membership are selling their shares even though City analysts believe that it is a good growth stock. Salomon Brothers said: "It is a cost-efficient operation which allows profitability at low margins. Northern Rock should significantly outpace the 6-7 per cent growth in the mortgage market."

Adam Applegarth, Northern Rock executive director, said: " The high number of people selling is a culmination of number of things. We have a predominantly local membership. Geordies tend to like cash. "

He pointed out that the North East and Newcastle have the lowest proportion of people who own shares. He added: "We suspect that many sellers will use some of their windfall for holiday or new household goods or just a treat in general."

☐ Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, said in Hong Kong yesterday that building societies are going to find it increasingly difficult to remain mutual "because they do not have access to capital and capital eventually is king". Abbey National converted to a bank and floated on the stock market in 1989.

Tempus, page 31
Rock steady, page 64

Buffett may sell stake in Salomon

WARREN BUFFETT, the billionaire investor, could sell his 19 per cent Salomon stake after the bank's $9 billion merger this week with Travelers Group, according to Deryck Maughan, the Salomon executive chairman (Oliver August writes).

Mr Buffett backed the merger and will hold a 4 per cent stake in the new group worth $550 million after the proposed stock swap.

In an interview with *The Times* Mr Maughan said: "He has not characterised it as a long-term holding. He is positive on the deal, but whatever he does won't critically affect us"

Although he is a senior non-executive director of Salomon, Mr Buffett will not be on the Travelers board.

Fellow Traveler, page 28

Reed admits circulation figures were overstated

BY ADAM JONES

REED ELSEVIER could face legal demands for compensation of at least £125 million after admitting drastic overstatement of circulation figures on some of its leading international directories.

A full investigation is underway at its Reed Travel Group division, which publishes airline and hotel directories and the company advises "a substantial write-down" is likely.

Shares of Reed International, the UK arm of the Anglo-Dutch group, fell 49½p to 536½p yesterday as investors sought to quantify the extent of the damage. The company said it would take "a number of months" before the extent of the overstatement is known.

Advertisers were overcharged for five years in some cases after incorrect circulation figures were issued for the airline and hotel directories. The overstatement took place between 1991 and 1995, when the directories produced total revenues of about £500 million.

One industry source estimated the circulation overstatement could be 15 to 20 per cent. Advertisers include the Hyatt and Sheraton hotel groups, United Airlines and British Airways.

Nigel Stapleton, Reed Elsevier co-chairman, said it was too early to say whether the irregularities will warrant police investigation.

The board also intends to write down intangible asset values. Market speculation yesterday suggested this could be by more than £100 million.

Reed said the irregularities had been discovered after new management arrived at Reed Travel Group last August. The publications involve *Official Airline Guides* (OAG), bought from the administrator of Robert Maxwell's Maxwell Communication Corporation for £275 million in 1993. Reed confirmed yesterday that the irregularities involve OAG, although it said they date from after the purchase.

The problems also involve Hotel Travel Index titles, bought from The News Corporation in 1989. Reed said there was no evidence of irregularities before 1991.

The investigation will involve Freshfields, the UK law firm. Auditors were not confirmed last night.

Commentary, page 29

A WEEK IN THE CITY

George Soros is not a man who takes kindly to criticism. Neither is Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the mercurial Prime Minister of Malaysia. So delegates at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual conference in Hong Kong could not quite believe it when Soros dismissed the Malaysian premier as "a menace to his country".

Dr Mahathir's "crime" had been to launch an outspoken attack on "immoral" financial speculators, blaming them for Malaysia's economic *malaise*. His proposed solution — a ban on currency trading — sent the ringgit to a 26-year low against the dollar, leaving the doctor literally under a pall. The smoke drifting across from Indonesia did little for his mood.

The fun and games at the IMF came sandwiched neatly between two headline-grabbing mergers, and a rampant display by the London stock market. No sooner had Price Waterhouse announced its engagement with Coopers & Lybrand, than Travelers Group, owner of Smith Barney, the US broker, unveiled plans to swallow Salomon, the hard-nosed Wall Street investment bank. The $9 billion deal makes a millionaire of Peter Middleton, the motorcycling monk who tried to sort out the mess at Lloyd's of London. Middleton, who has expanded comfortably into his new role, cleans up on Salomon shares. He will head the enlarged European operations of Salomon Smith Barney, leaving the task of running the worldwide firm to Deryck Maughan, the New York-based son of a Durham coalminer.

The last laugh went to Warren Buffett, whose reputation as a canny investor has proved well-founded over the years. Little over a week ago, the markets reacted in horror at his decision to shift $2 billion out of equities and into bonds — a traditional haven ahead of an impending stock market crash. A few days on, his long-held stake in Salomon stands to net him a profit of at least $1.4 billion, leaving him more or less back where he started.

Another investment powerhouse, the mighty Nomura found itself cast in the unlikely role of Britain's biggest landlord, when it gulped down Inntrepeneur and Spring Inns for £1.2 billion. Eurotunnel edged into the black for the first time in 11 years, but there was less cheer at Sears, which announced plans to sell or close all its shoe shops, leading to up to 850 redundancies.

Carlsberg-Tetley said it was getting rid of three of its five breweries, scuppering 1,500 jobs. Poor Laura Ashley issued its third profit warning in five months, turning up the heat on Ann Iverson, the group's ever-hopeful chief executive.

NatWest Markets stuck its neck out with a prediction that the FTSE 100 would hit 7,000 by the end of 2000. By good fortune, yesterday's reaction to an EMU rumour brought that target significantly closer.

One senses the hand again of Soros, who famously made $1 billion shorting the pound ahead of the UK's withdrawal from the ERM in 1992. Back in smoke-shrouded Kuala Lumpur, Dr M can only sit and weep.

JON ASHWORTH

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Fellow Traveler popped question over dinner

Oliver August finds out how a takeover came to be on the menu for Salomon

Maughan: phoned invitation

THE idea for the $9 billion takeover of Salomon by Travelers Group was hatched on the 43rd floor of the World Trade Center. Deryck Maughan, Salomon's executive chairman, can see Travelers' head office in Midtown Manhattan from his window — and by the end of the year he will be based there.

On August 14, he picked up the phone and called Sandford Weill, his opposite number at Travelers, and invited him to dinner. At the Four Seasons he asked him: "Sandy, the world is changing, what are you going to do?" Mr Weill put his aggressive acquisition machine into top gear and created America's second-largest financial services merger in less than a month. The joint group, whose new investment banking arm is to be called Salomon Smith Barney, will be worth $55 billion.

Few on Wall Street can believe that the initiative came from Mr Maughan. After the merger announcement rumours were spreading that Mr Maughan had been bounced into the deal by Warren Buffett, the investor with a 19 per cent stake. Other bankers had apparently seen him looking gloomy in meetings with Travelers. It seems they mistook his naturally humble nature for something else.

The son of a Co Durham miner, Mr Maughan has worked for the Treasury and is excited about the prospect of making Salomon part of a global financial institution that deals in everything from insurance retail to selling government bonds. Mr Weill wants to make further overseas acquisitions, taking non-US revenues far beyond the 25 per cent of the present total, according to an animated Mr Maughan.

In his view, finance will in future be dominated by six to eight global giants. He said: "I used to think maybe ten, but that's probably too many." Other investment banks of Salomon proportions — Credit Suisse First Boston or Bear Stearns — will either have to find merger partners or perish.

Mr Maughan said: "We will be one of the global survivors. If others don't follow us, they will be forced into much lower profitability." Some Wall Street banking analysts agree, and even talk of an eventual takeover of Goldman Sachs, a limited partnership.

But such huge deals also create problems. Mr Maughan will have to share power at Salomon Smith Barney with his co-chief executive James Dimon, a Weill protégé. Speculation as to how long Mr Maughan will last in this position already abounds. *The Wall Street Journal* said: "The show may have a short run." *Business Week* magazine headlined: "How long can these two tango?"

Mr Maughan is non-plussed even though Mr Weill has not given him any guarantees. Whatever his true feelings, he certainly can't go back. Soon his office and the whole trading floor in the World Trade Center will be sublet to another bank.

Officials aim to create banking super union

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

A BANKING super union representing up to 250,000 workers may be formed by the end of next year after talks between the three main finance unions.

The move comes as Bifu and UNiFI yesterday gave warning of a likely mandate next week for strike action at Barclays in a dispute over pay and conditions.

Bifu, UNiFI and the NatWest Staff Association said a merger to form a giant finance union, which must go through lengthy rounds of consultation, would "end decades of rivalry" and provide a unifed voice to fight job insecurity and "attacks on pay". Ballots of all the members of the three unions could begin next summer after final meetings of the unions. Rulebook changes and merger details will be thrashed out this winter.

In a joint statement the general secretaries of the unions said: "The clear message from our members is to end divided staff representation and reclaim an agenda that is increasingly driven by management to create a genuine partnership."

The unions believe that if a super union is created it could attract finance staff from building societies and other financial areas.

A spokesman for Bifu, the biggest banking union, said that the dispute at Barclays highlighted the need for consolidated action.

UNiFI and Bifu have campaigned jointly against pay proposals, but at the last ballot Bifu endorsed full strike action, while UNiFI backed industrial action short of a strike.

Yesterday Ed Sweeney, general secretary of Bifu, said he expected the latest ballot to back strike action, while Paul Snowball, general secretary of UNiFI, said his members could also vote to strike. Mr Snowball said: "Attitudes have hardened since the last ballot and it is clear that Barclays have not paid any attention to the measures we have taken."

The ballot results are due to be announced on Tuesday. If both unions vote for strike action there are likely to be a series of walk-outs lasting more than one day at branches throughout the country.

Kirk leaves Cooper

ED KIRK, the embattled chief executive of Frederick Cooper, the housewares and coatings group, has abruptly left the company in the middle of his three-year contract. Mr Kirk, who was paid £200,000 a year, will receive compensation (Chris Ayres writes.)

Shares in Frederick Cooper have fallen from 43½p to 11½p over 12 months, wiping about £200,000 from the value of Mr Kirk's holding in the company.

Geoff Gahan, non-executive chairman, will take control until a new chief executive is found.

PAUL FIEVEZ

Chris Evans, left, with Noel Edmonds and Kevin Gray, chief executive, yesterday

Toad set to break even

By Chris Ayres

TOAD, the car security company which gave free shares to Noel Edmonds in return for publicity, claimed yesterday it would break even by the end of this year, despite reporting deeper pre-tax losses for the year to March 31, from £2.3 million to £5.2 million.

The company, founded and chaired by Chris Evans, the biotechnology entrepreneur, also announced the proposed acquisition of two rivals, Laserline and Sigma, for a combined total of £1.6 million in cash and shares.

Toad said it was recovering well after its share price crash last year from 117½p to 27½p, with a new management team. It added that its flagship product, an anti-theft tracking device which can be hidden almost anywhere inside a car, was expected to be on saleby the end of next year.

Dr Evans said: "Trading in the current year has been very encouraging with turnover and gross margins improving significantly."

The company also reported a 60 per cent rise in turnover from £3 million to £4.8 million, with losses per share up from 16.98p to 26.31p. No dividend will be paid. The closed 2½p up at 30p.

Tempus, page 31

Hambros rejects revised offer by Fishers

By Marianne Curphey
Insurance Correspondent

HAMBROS, the troubled merchant bank, has rejected a revised £84 million offer by Fishers International, the loss adjuster, for its controlling stake in Hambros Insurance Services. Fishers was undaunted, saying it would look "elsewhere" for acquisitions. Kevin Kenny, Fishers' chief executive, said he was disappointed that Hambros had rejected "our rational offer".

Institutional investors of both companies are understood to be concerned that Hambros had declined to restart talks after Fishers' initial approach in July. Analysts said Hambros felt it would face more pressure to dismantle other parts of its empire had it agreed to the deal.

The announcement dampened demand for Hambros shares, which rose just 1¼p to 227p in a market where Barclays leapt more than £1. Fishers fell 1p to 21½p and HIS from 111½p to 101p.

Fishers, valued at £27 million, was offering the merchant bank Hambros, which holds 52 per cent of HIS's equity, a total of 128.7p per share, valuing the company at £84 million. However, Hambros rejected the terms, and Fishers announced it would not be putting the proposal to the board and shareholders of HIS for their consideration.

Nicholas Page, HIS managing director, said: "This approach was highly opportunistic. I am pleased this period of uncertainty can now be brought to an end." He added Fishers' proposals would have had a "a very serious and substantial adverse impact on the HIS Group businesses and Fishers were informed of these concerns."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BG starts talks to sell subsidiary for £80m

AN INTELLIGENT pig is soon to be sold in a deal that could net up to £80 million for BG, half of the old British Gas. BG is in talks to sell its Pipeline Integrity International (PII) business, dubbed the intelligent pig because it is an inspection operation that involves sending a detector crawling through the pipelines. BG expects to sell the business, which has assets worth more than £40 million, to a company formed by the private equity division of Mercury Asset Management.

The move is part of a series of disposals that BG announced when it reported its half-year results earlier this month. BG has embarked on a substantial cost reduction programme, which involves hiving off non-core businesses and cutting 2,500 jobs at its Transco division, after a price curb ruling by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. BG said the sale would give PII the best opportunity to realise its potential while BG will be able to redeploy resources to its international downstream business.

Safety firm chief quits

PETER HALL resigned as chief executive of Industrial Control, the oil and chemical safety systems group, after it announced a 21 per cent fall in full-year pre-tax profits to £4.4 million (£5.6 million) and cut its final dividend from 2.1p to 0.5p, blaming low profit margins and development costs. David Lindsay, currently finance director, will succeed him. Earnings were 6.09p a share (9.03p). Total dividend is 2p (3.6p), payable on November 21. The shares fell 78½p to 65p.

Jourdan seeks £5m

THOMAS JOURDAN, the Corby, Northamptonshire, trouser-press company chaired by David Abell, is raising £5.07 million via a rights issue. The fund raising was announced as Jourdan disclosed a pre-tax loss of £1.2 million for the six months to June 30 after net exceptional charges of £544,000 against restructuring. Losses were 6.3p a share. There is no dividend. As a result of the restructuring and change of year-end there are no comparable figures for last year's first half.

Beckett blocks GU

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday barred General Utilities, the UK arm of Generale des Eaux, the French utility, from exerting its full voting rights in Mid Kent Water. The move came after a redemption of preference shares increased its holding in Mid Kent from 19.5 per cent to 24.2 per cent. That took its influence beyond the level set by the Government in 1991 to safeguard the number of water companies under independent control.

Gieves slips into the red

GIEVES, the retail group that owns Knickerbox, reported a loss before tax of £147,000 (£278,000 profit) in the six months to July 31 on sales up from £9.6 million to £10.3 million. The half-year dividend has been cut from 0.75p to 0.40p. Gieves said: "Subject to the obvious uncertainties that surround the Christmas trading period at Gieves & Hawkes and Knickerbox the loss incurred in the first half should be eliminated." The shares fell 1p to 48p.

Boeing to lift capacity

BOEING, the aircraft manufacturer, plans to more than double capacity, increasing output to 48 aircraft a month from just over 18, Phil Condit, the company's chairman, said. Earlier this month Boeing, which is the main competitor to Airbus Industrie, the European consortium, was forced to delay delivery of 12 aircraft because of parts shortages, a stretched supplier base and an influx of new employees. Yesterday Mr Condit said these problems would be overcome by April.

Electrophoretics slides

ELECTROPHORETICS, the AIM-listed medical diagnostics research company, reported a pre-tax loss of £760,883 (£676,756 loss) in the six months to June 30. The loss reflects the increased coverage of research but remains in line with budget projections. The loss per share deepened from 1.04p to 1.05p. There will be no dividend. Directors said they were confident that sub-licensing agreements to be confirmed before the end of 1997 will transform the company. The shares rose 3p to 41p.

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BA to sell division to Americans

British Airways plans to sell its Wheels and Brakes business to AlliedSignal Aerospace, of California. Allied beat competition from a number of rival bidders to be selected as the prospective bidder and the two companies expect a definitive agreement to be completed by the end of the year.

The business provides a maintenance and supply service at Heathrow and employs 65 people of whom 50 will transfer to Allied.

The remainder have agreed to take a severance payment or early retirement. BA expects to sign a ten-year contract with Allied for the overhaul of its aircraft.

Dividend up

MediaKey, the training and publishing group, reported pre-tax profits of £618,000 in the six months to June 30 compared with £802,000 for the nine months to June 30, 1996. The half-year dividend is 0.400p (0.375p) out of basic earnings of 0.7p (1.7p). Operating profits before costs were £1.1 million (£884,000). The shares were unchanged at 40p.

SMH ahead

Sinclair Montrose Healthcare reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £203,000 (£193,000) in the six months to June 30 on sales of £7 million (£1.7 million). Earnings per share slipped from 1.53p to 1.03p. The group has not yet paid a dividend.

New Deal post

Valerie Scoular, director of customer service at British Airways, is to join the Government's New Deal taskforce to reduce youth unemployment.

Corroon expands with German deal

By Martin Barrow

WILLIS CORROON, the UK insurance broker, is to take an initial 30 per cent stake in one of Germany's largest brokers, it was announced yesterday.

Under the terms of the agreement Willis Corroon could eventually become the controlling shareholder in Jaspers Wuppesahl Industrie Assekuranz, a newly formed broker that has emerged from the rapid consolidation of the sector in Germany.

The German broker is the result of the merger of Jaspers Industrie Assekuranz (JIA), of Frankfurt, the country's fourth largest, and Wuppesahl & Co Assekuranzmakler, of Bremen, the number six in the market. Willis Corroon already owns 20 per cent of Wuppesahl.

Deutsche Bank, which at present has a 20 per cent stake in JIA, is expected to take just below 20 per cent of the new, larger company.

The majority will be owned by private shareholders. The new company will have 650 staff and turnover of more than DM130 million (£45 million).

Talks are under way about the repurchase of a 20 per cent stake in JIA that is held by Alexander & Alexander Services, of New York.

Business links between the two companies will be severed after the takeover of A&A by Aon Corporation, which already owns Jauch & Huebener, Germany's largest broker.

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Canada $	2.355	2.167
Cyprus Cyp£	0.883	0 812
Denmark Kr	11.38	10.49
Finland Mkk	9.03	8.28
France Fr	9.98	9.20
Germany Dm	3.00	2.76
Greece Dr	474	435
Hong Kong $	13.28	12.08
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.16	1 07
Israel Shk	5.95	5.30
Italy Lira	2944	2707
Japan Yen	209.13	191.60
Malta	0.663	0.604
Netherlds Gld	3.383	3.088
New Zealand $	2.66	2.42
Norway Kr	12.08	11.14
Portugal Esc	301 03	279 00
S Africa Rd	8.25	7.29
Spain Pta	250.79	232.00
Sweden Kr	12.97	11 87
Switzerland Fr	2 49	2.28
Turkey Lira	286516	266538
USA $	1 715	1.572

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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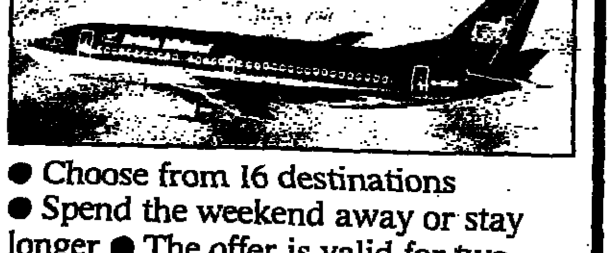

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Markets and Treasury in a spin

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Just one strategically placed story on the front of the *Financial Times* yesterday, and the markets zoomed into overdrive. The Footsie hitting an all-time high, the pound shedding five pfennigs: how much can be achieved with how little effort when an ingenious spin doctor is involved.

As they witnessed the excited response to the notion that the Government would soon be announcing its determination to sign up for European Monetary Union, the chaps in Chancellor Brown's office must have been impressed by the effect just a few column inches had achieved. The Treasury was swift to dismiss the tale as "pure speculation", but the markets preferred to believe what they had read.

We shall probably never know the precise antecedents of the FT's story, but there can be little doubt about the power exerted by the Chancellor's chosen team, nor about their skills in spin doctoring. Two new documentaries show the team in action. It seems they provide ample evidence of why there may be some at the Treasury and at the Bank of England who are far from happy with the new regime at Number 11.

The determined duo of Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan are not merely the Chancellor's chosen advisers but his hit squad. As part of a Government intent on modernising British institutions, Gordon Brown is set on modernising the Treasury and Messrs Balls and Whelan are integral to the process. But their methods, their youth and their very presence has alienated many in the Treasury and at the Bank of England.

The brainy civil servants had been so enthusiastic about Mr Brown's arrival at the Treasury, after having had to cope with 18 years of Tory Chancellors of assorted abilities, they greeted him with applause. But the mood of celebration was quickly quashed and morale within the Treasury is now said to be dismal. For some mandarins, seeing power so centralised with Mr Brown and his boys is intensely frustrating. If Sir Humphrey were around, he would most certainly be plotting the downfall of the interlopers, and it might be surprising if there were not a few first class minds currently giving some thought to just such a scheme.

But clearly Mr Brown has every confidence in his chosen advisers, and their apparent enthusiasm for the documentaries indicates that they have no qualms about the way they carry out their roles. Less assured individuals might balk at seeing themselves on screen admitting to manipulating the press and, so it is rumoured, being less than flattering about the Governor of the Bank of England.

If such a scene is to be shown, it will cause concern well beyond the boundaries of Threadneedle Street. When "sources close to the Chancellor" indicated shortly after the election that the Government would be happy to see Eddie George take early retirement, the reaction from the City was strongly hostile.

Fast track to euro would derail UK

Should Britain really be on its way to join in a single currency, there are plenty of profitable chances for convergence in financial markets, if not on the scale of Italian bonds. The gilt-edged market latched on fast, marking ten-year gilt-edged issues up about £1 or more. Yields remain above 6.5 per cent, a point above rates on comparable French of German stocks.

In equity markets, sums are vaguer. Yesterday's surge was focused on blue chips so there is some international comparison going on even if renewed optimism that the bull market will keep going coloured reactions.

London shares sell at an average of 19 times earnings, which is comparable with Paris or Frankfurt even though their economies are at an earlier stage of recovery. The big difference is in dividend yields, where a 3.3 per cent average in London compares with 2.4 per cent in Paris and 1.4 per cent in Frankfurt.

Any fall in sterling's parity with the mark would help too. But easy hints invite awkward questions. The UK does not pass all Maastricht tests. Doubtless the rest would be waived, but that does not ease the difficulty of fixing parities when short-term interest rates differ so much and when sterling has made no attempt to shadow the mark. Sterling should fall, but how far? Time would be needed for adjustment by markets, by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee and, in turn, in the Treasury's budgetary policy.

Time is equally vital for the physical process of converting everything from bank clearing systems to corner shop tills. In countries certain to join, business planning is ahead of the UK. They think the timetbale is short both for 1999 and for the bigger, more mundane challenge of a new retail currency in 2002.

In Britain, the central planning assumption is that the euro will come in on time, but as a foreign currency. Smaller firms do not want to throw money away on something that is not going to happen. The UK would take longer to prepare for the big days once a decision was taken.

Gordon Brown could take Britain straight to 2002, leaving out the formal monetary union in 15 months' time. But the Bank of England's EMU co-ordinators will, if asked, tell him that he must declare for EMU soon if the country is to have much hope of joining up in 2002 without chaos ensuing. A government decision would have to be made early in 1999 at the latest, even if the public's endorsement had to wait.

Figuring it out at Reed

We all know that calculating circulation figures can be a touch problematic, but consistently overstating them for several years by a factor rumoured to be as high as 25 per cent is a remarkable achievement. Now the directors of Reed must be asking themselves just why the circulation figures for their travel group directories were audited by a relative unknown in the industry instead of the mighty ABC.

That issue is but one which the company will now have to explore as it heads towards the inevitable protracted battles in the United States courts. Since most of the advertisers in the directories have been regular customers, it could be argued that they were happy with the audience that Reed provided, even if it was considerably smaller than they had been led to expect. But that brave contention is hardly likely to stop US lawyers looking for compensation which could start at around £125 million as advertisers demand refunds commensurate with the exaggerations made to them.

Many believed that Reed paid too heavily to relieve the late Robert Maxwell's administrators of the Official Airlines Guides, even if the figures were not fudged. Now Nigel Stapleton, who was the finance director then, faces the embarrassment of working out just who in the organisation knew what about the figures. What may have started out as a little lie has, as Pinocchio would have expected, grown bigger and bigger.

Interesting reading

Has being passed over for the role of chief executive at WH Smith jaundiced the views of Keith Hamill? His comments in the new annual report certainly provide a welcome antidote to the heavily designered optimism of his colleagues. They talk of sales up 2 per cent at the main chain and witter on about marketing. Hamill reports sales up 1.5 per cent and adds that the increase was "largely due to the sale of surplus stock at discount prices".

Country Casuals blames founders as loss deepens

By Sarah Cunningham

PAYOFFS to Mark and Christina Bunce, the husband and wife team who went from running Country Casuals to trying to buy it, and higher than expected costs involved in disposals, have left the women's wear retailer deeply in the red.

Tom Adam, who yesterday announced his resignation as chairman, revealed that paying off the Bunces cost Country Casuals some £90,000. Mark Bunce was chief executive and his wife a director of the company. They both resigned in May while trying to put together a bid for the business they helped to found. The money has been paid in lieu of either of them working the usual notice period. The company is no longer in takeover talks with anyone.

The company also revealed yesterday that it had made a loss on the sale of the Elvi and Lerose manufacturing businesses of £5.5 million: £1 million more than estimated at the time of disposal.

The company blamed the higher loss on an increase in working capital in both businesses before disposal, and unexpectedly high fees to advisers. These fees also cover payments made during negotiations with the Bunces.

In all, the company made a pre-tax loss of £6.13 million (£918,000 loss) in the six months to July 26. It will not pay an interim dividend.

Mr Adam, who took over as chairman after the company first lurched into crisis with the resignation of the other co-founder, John Shannon, in 1994, said yesterday that he was leaving having reached the retirement age of 65. He is replaced by John Ketteley, a merchant banker who is currently chairman of BTP. David Lowbridge, managing director of Country Casuals Ltd, has also joined the main board.

Mr Adam described the talks with the Bunces as "a considerable distraction to key management for much of the first half of the year".

Andrew Mills-Baker, chief executive, pointed out that operating profit in the first half rose 59 per cent to £375,000 and he said that the company had just sold property for a profit of £600,000, which would be included in the second-half accounts. However, he admitted that trading had been disappointing in recent weeks, blaming the particularly warm August.

Like-for-like sales increased 8 per cent in the first half, but sales have since fallen. As a result, same-store sales are ahead just 3 per cent in the year to date. The shares closed down 10p at 91p.

Christina and Mark Bunce negotiated a payoff, while Tom Adam, right, has retired

IBM chief expected to shine at Apple

From Oliver August in New York

SAMUEL PALMISANO, the head of IBM's personal computer division, has been tipped to become the new chief executive of Apple Computer. An announcement from Steve Jobs, Apple founder and interim chief executive, is expected next month.

The Apple board has interviewed a range of rising stars in the US technology sector and Mr Palmisano, 44, is said to have outshone his competitors.

Last month *Business Week* magazine voted him one of the 20 most likely new heads of major corporations. In July, he was made an IBM senior vice-president.

Mr Palmisano, who has been at IBM for 24 years, is the youngest top executive at the computer manufacturer. He started his way up the corporate ladder as personal assistant to John Akers, the legendary former chief executive. Analysts said Mr Palmisano is being groomed to take over the IBM top job.

Apple had to be rescued by Microsoft, the software group, earlier this year and is now looking to reinvent itself. Mr Palmisano is said to be ideally suited for this task following his success in turning around IBM's service subsidiary, Integrated Systems Solutions Corp.

EU set to give green light to GMG merger

By Dominic Walsh

EUROPEAN competition authorities are poised to give conditional clearance to the proposed £24 million merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan.

Sources in Brussels claimed last night that the European Commission had prepared a draft proposal recommending the creation of GMG Brands should be given the green light, provided the two parties make concessions. No indication was given of what the conditions might involve, but the options are likely to focus on the disposal of at least one whisky brand or restrictions over distribution rights.

The proposed merger would combine such brands as J&B, Johnnie Walker, Dewar's and Bell's, giving GMG a huge market share in a number of European countries, including the UK and Spain. There have been suggestions the sale of Dewar's might be sufficient to satisfy the authorities.

Greener: confident

There were suggestions yesterday that Allied Domecq, one of several rival companies that oppose the merger, would pounce on any brands that might be offloaded.

A final decision from the Commission is expected by October 27, but one EU source suggested it could come as early as October 15.

GMG refused to comment last night. However, at the Guinness interim results announcement on Tuesday Tony Greener, chairman, said he was confident the deal would go ahead, as planned, in January — in spite of opposition from LVMH's Bernard Arnault. Referring to discussions with competition authorities both in Brussels and the US, he added: "We are totally confident we will receive a decision that is totally satisfactory, both to us and the regulators."

Profit hopes lift Berisford

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Berisford rose more than 9 per cent yesterday after the kitchen and cooking equipment group said that its full-year results, which are due for publication on November 27, would be ahead of market expectations.

Analysts, who had been expecting pre-tax profits of about £31.5 million, swiftly upgraded their forecasts by about 10 per cent. The shares closed 14½p higher at 172½p.

Trade is believed to have been boosted by strong sales of Welbilt cooking equipment to the fast-food business.

The company also announced the appointment of two new board members. Andrew Roake, 45, a former vice-president of Raychem Corporation, has been made chief executive of Welbilt Corporation, which is based in America.

David Williams, 40, who joined the group in July last year as managing director of Magnet, the kitchens business, has also been invited on to the main board.

Poor sales hit GUS forecasts

By Sarah Cunningham

A DISAPPOINTING trading statement from Great Universal Stores, which cited poor sales from Burberrys, knocked the group's share price and led to profit forecast downgrades yesterday.

Lord Woolfson of Sunningdale, chairman, told the annual meeting that sales at Burberrys remained under pressure because of the strength of sterling, particularly against the yen. Turnover in home shopping has shown a "small improvement" in the first five months of the year, while turnover in information services was described as satisfactory.

Translating profits of overseas subsidiaries "continues to be adversely affected by the strength of sterling", the company said. Pre-tax profits in the five months to August 31 are "marginally ahead" of last year.

Tony Shiret at BZW moved his forecast down from £584 million to £575 million, while NatWest Markets edged down from £575 million to £570 million. The shares dipped to as low as 656½p but recovered in late trade to close for a loss of 7p at 680p. The five months to August 31, last year, included £7.4 million of exceptional credits relating to VAT. There are no such credits in the same period of this year. **Tempus, page 31**

Alexon chief reaps reward of turnround

THE turnround of Alexon, the women's wear retailer, is reaping rewards for John Osborn, its chief executive. The company revealed yesterday that Mr Osborn has made a profit of £487,000 by cashing in share options.

Mr Osborn, who is credited with bringing the group back from the brink of collapse, exercised an option over 300,000 shares at 65½p then immediately sold them on at 228p a share.

In April he made a profit of £257,000 after exercising options, and still has options over a further 430,000 shares. He also holds just over 285,000 shares in the company worth more than £654,000 at yesterday's close of 229½.

Growth continues at Clinton Cards

By Sarah Cunningham

CLINTON CARDS is continuing its expansion with plans to add seven stores to its chain by Christmas, taking the total number of stores to 485.

Don Lewin, chairman, said that he sees the scope for up to 800 branches in the UK. The company, which has bought Hall of Cards and shops from Carlton Cards in the last two years, is not planning further acquisitions but will carry on looking for sites for new branches.

Trade in the first half of this year has been good, with same-store sales up 9.9 per cent. Sales growth has accelerated in the second half, with like-for-like sales growing by 11 per cent in the seven weeks to September 21. The company's confidence is reflected in a 21.6 per cent boost in the interim dividend from 0.617p to 0.75p. It is payable on October 24.

Mr Lewin said he was expecting a good Christmas, which should lead to earnings growth in the second half, when the company traditionally makes all its profits.

At the interim stage, the company cut its pre-tax loss from last year's £2.34 million to £1.79 million. Turnover was up from £67.3 million to £71.9 million.

Railtrack faces greater censure if it fails to meet targets

Rail regulator takes on new powers

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

Swift: investigatory powers

THE RAIL regulator yesterday took on tough new powers to tackle Railtrack if the network fails to meet investment targets. The move marks the first time that Railtrack has been subject to a formal duty on investment.

The new controls include unlimited fines if Railtrack fails to spend on maintenance and improvements and were implemented after rail companies and passenger representatives gave strong backing for tougher regulatory powers.

John Swift, the regulator, secured agreement from Railtrack for the new sweeping powers in July after threatening the business with referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Since then he has put the plans out for consultation to the industry and consumer groups.

More than 50 rail companies, local authorities and passenger groups gave him support.

Mr Swift said: "With the implementation of this new licence condition, to which it had agreed, Railtrack is entering a new regulatory partnership in its investment programme, and to measurable delivery of its obligations."

Railtrack has been criticised for being slow to invest the £16 billion it has pledged to spend on its network over the next ten years.

Railtrack's licence has been amended via three main proposals which were set out in July — to establish the duty of investment; to give the regulator powers of investigation; and to oblige Railtrack to consult with train operators and funders over their expectations.

Mr Swift said: "Failure to deliver will result in Railtrack being called to account — to me, to its customers and funders, and to the public. The new licence condition gives me the necessary investigatory and enforcement powers to give effect to that public accountability."

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FSD25

Risk-taker puts Nomura's money where his mouth is

Why does Nomura, Japan's mighty broking house, want to own 6,100 British pubs, 57,000 Army houses and a third of our trains?

The answer lies with Guy Hands. He is the rather shambling financier who had the gall to doorstep Nomura clutching a business plan three years ago. He was working for Goldman Sachs at the time. Hands persuaded Takumi Shibata, Nomura's then London banking boss, that he should be allowed to use the bank's vast capital base to take assets onto its own books and then lay off that risk by securitisation. Shibata bought the idea, and the new category of creative financial engineering was born.

Today Hands rules a fiefdom of 70 professionals in Nomura's Principle Finance Group. It has completed $11 billion (£6.8 billion) worth of deals, the latest being this week's £1.2 billion takeover of Inntrepreneur, the country's biggest, but troubled, pub chain. In a week or so it may also have William Hill's string of betting shops in its portfolio.

If imitation is the highest compliment, then Hands must be feeling smug. Not only is the exercise proving extremely profitable for Nomura, but every bank worth its salt is now playing this asset game (at least 35). He points out, though, that the long-term Japanese philosophy gives Nomura the edge.

Hands made his own conversion while working on a mobile home deal for Goldman in the sweating heat of Arizona. "It was 120 degrees in the shade, I had a thick English suit on and I lost the deal because the rival bank was prepared to take the risk. I suddenly felt that working as an agent I never put my balls on the line and that this was a lower form of existence than if I put my money — or the bank's — where my mouth was."

A banker with a soul? Surely not. Hands gets excited now. "Remember that *Brothers* programme in the Seventies? They were merchant bankers who put money in real companies. They cared about the business."

Now Hands gets the chance to get his hands mucky — he is on the board of several of the companies in which Nomura has invested. "It's like being a headmaster. It shows management that we really care. That is empowering for some, but some find it terrifying."

Hands, bored by selling eurobonds, had tried to sell his securitisation idea to Goldman but it dared not tread, so, with its permission, he went out hawking his idea. Selling was not new. In his gap-year, while waiting to go up to Oxford, the young Hands spent weeks wandering icy North London streets selling encyclopaedia. He still remembers the 459 doors slammed in his face, but he sold one set.

He switched to door-to-door selling of local artists' work and at one time had 50 salesmen working for him. This looked so promising at Oxford that he opened a gallery, For Art's Sake, and even took a year out to run it. A nasty property lease and a collapsing building left him with £40,000 of debts, which he cleared, but a taste for risk.

Hands continued his degree, getting a good Third. It's only now that Hands drops his bombshell. He is severely dyslexic. So severely, that his ten-year-old son was spelling better than him two years ago. At school he had to take the sciences although he would have preferred English — and he was examined verbally for his finals. "It would have been too difficult for them to wade through my writing," he says, grinning widely.

His dyslexia is still a beast to slay — a driving force to what is a dogged stubbornness. At 16 he read an *Economist* article about Goldman — mythical hard-working and anti-Establishment — and decided he would work there. Oxford was the only place he applied to.

Even now he makes life difficult for himself, reading acres of proofs for prospectuses and business plans. "I think everything I do is driven by the fact that I didn't work hard at school but I must achieve. I would have liked to have been a writer or even an actor — but my pronunciation is bad too, so instead I decided to make money."

And money he makes. Hands swallows hard when asked how many millions, so does the PR woman who is taping. They swallow in unison and nod and say it is a house rule not to comment. Rumourmongers reckon he may have pocketed as much as £12 million last year.

But he doesn't like spending money — his ruffled, slightly overgrown choirboy appearance and nondescript suit are evidence of that. He lives modestly in Sevenoaks with four children, a Classics-educated wife, a black labrador and drives a Volvo — not the picture of the usual investment banker who rolls off the Goldman sausage machine.

This year he will have taken only ten days' leave and after 14-hour days he takes work home too. He does admit to the occasional 26-hour flight to Hawaii for holidays. "It's the only place they can't get me." Finally he reveals a liking for fine wines, and a small cellar and, when his wife allows, a passion for extremely loud punk music.

MARGARETA PAGANO

IN THE HOT SEAT

GUY HANDS: CV

Born 1959.
Judd Grammar School, Tonbridge.
1978: PPE Mansfield College, Oxford.
1982: Goldman Sachs.
1994: Nomura.
Now: managing director of Nomura International's Principle Finance Group

Some say Guy Hands earned £12 million last year

The 'Ed and Charlie show' looks behind the spin at the Treasury

Janet Bush
examines
where real
power lies in
economic
policymaking

It was a taste of things to come. On April 3, the day that Labour launched its election manifesto, Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's chief economic adviser, gave a graphic picture of how the Treasury mandarins would be expected to bend to the will of the new Chancellor.

He was talking, intense but smiling with the excitement of it all, to a fly-on-the-wall documentary crew from Scottish Television about the windfall tax. It was far more than an idea, he said. Brown and his team meant to arrive at the Treasury on May 2 with the legislation drafted, the legal position sewn up, all the numbers crunched, the documents prepared. They would "arrive on May 2, drop it on the Permanent Secretary's desk and say 'Now, implement it!'"

Scottish Television has made two films to be shown on the coming two Tuesdays. The first follows Brown's team in the final months of the election campaign to the triumphant morning of May 2. The second, which started filming only hours later from inside the Treasury as the new Chancellor was clapped in by ecstatic civil servants, provides us with an astonishingly frank glimpse of Brown's team in power.

The Treasury has never been subject to such outside scrutiny. The mandarins, used to the subtle business of private advice being given behind closed doors, were pretty dismayed when they realised the extent of the intrusion. But the new Chancellor had given his personal permission to a documentary film-maker with whom he had worked during his days as a researcher at Scottish Television.

We are the Treasury is perhaps one of the riskier exercises undertaken by Brown in his drive for open government. Just as the Chancellor's coterie of special advisers and spin-doctors have been trying to play down persistent rumours of bad blood between them and the "official" Treasury and the Bank of England, the film threatens to lay all the simmering hostility open to view.

Weeks before the film was due to be shown, enough was rumoured of its contents to have long-serving Treasury mandarins and the top brass at the Bank of England on flustered red alert. The title *We are the Treasury* vividly sums up the dominant role now played in the life of the institution by the small team of advisers that the new Chancellor brought with him from Opposition. Ed Balls, once a leader writer for the *Financial Times* and now the Chancellor's chief economic adviser, and Charlie Whelan, his canny and combative press secretary, are so omnipresent that it could as easily be called the "Ed and Charlie show".

The film takes us through Brown's dramatic first few weeks in office, including the momentous decision to give the Bank of England independence and, within days, to strip away its supervisory powers. It was well documented at the time that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was upset with what he felt was the way the supervision news was sprung on him without proper consultation. It was also alleged — but never proven — that the special advisers wanted to use his public displeasure to ease him out of his job.

But the merest whiff that Mr George, popular in the City and regarded as a safe pair of hands, might be under threat was enough to mobilise the financial markets in his defence. The Governor seemed safe and Mervyn King, the Bank's director of economics and a trusted and true Bank insider, was appointed as one of two Deputy Governors.

This semi-public spat is now dismissed as history by the Chancellor's men. However, the discontent rumbled on for quite some time. Negotiations between the Bank and the Treasury on the drafting of the Bank of England Bill were so sour during one spell in the summer that there was talk of virtual non-cooperation, of a mood close to volcanic.

In the documentary, Ed Balls is believed to have been captured on camera being less than complimentary to the Governor in those early days. The hatchet may since have been buried, but Mr George is not likely to be comfortable for history to be rerun on film in such a public way. Nor are the Treasury mandarins likely to thrill to a portrait of power so centralised in Mr Brown's private office. Many privately complain that they do not feel involved in policymaking, many are still licking their wounds from the loss of the power to decide interest rates and, with it, their jealously guarded role of economic forecasting.

One of the most concrete manifestations of change is that the top-level post of Treasury chief economic adviser, currently held by Sir Alan Budd, is effectively being downgraded. Sir Alan has long been one of a triumvirate of grade two civil servants who serve under Sir Terry Burns, the Permanent Secretary.

This year, Steve Robson was promoted to swell this count to four, but the number will fall to three again when Sir Alan leaves shortly to take up his place on the Bank's monetary policy committee. The Treasury says a chief economic adviser will be appointed, but not at grade two.

Treasury insiders wonder whether there will be many takers for this job given Ed Balls's role. All of this has become a favourite focus for gossip in City dining rooms and Whitehall drinking holes. There is a measure of sheer fascination mixed with a queasiness about what it all means for the established pattern of power.

But the advent of this film portrayal, which will offer concrete grist to the gossip mill, does not seem to worry Mr Brown's men much. Word has it that they thoroughly enjoyed seeing the rough cut. Why should they worry? Their takeover of the Treasury has not been a random happening based on force of personality, but rather a strategy as carefully planned as everything else about Labour's accession to power. Their assumption of centralised control of the Treasury from inside has been a brilliant entryist tactic of which the Militant Tendency would have been proud.

Downing Street apparently believed taking decisive control of the Treasury was an absolute must if Gordon Brown was to push through his radical agenda of new openness and modernisation of Whitehall's most powerful department.

Successive Labour administrations always felt that their electoral Achilles' heel was economic and that they were always thwarted by the mandarins who had a visceral distrust of old Labour tax and spend policies, now resolutely junked.

Time and again, Labour governments responded by trying to establish alternative, more sympathetic economic power bases in an attempt to control what they often regarded as the malign influence of the Treasury: the Central Policy Review Staff, the Department of Economic Affairs and the National Economic Development Council. All failed to secure a lasting power base.

This time, Labour decided to take control from within to try to ensure that the mandarins are harnessed closely to the Chancellor's agenda.

There has been some resistance, particularly, it is believed, among senior Treasury officials. The sense of unease is, of course, partly a generational problem, although it is thought that Sir Terry Burns, perennially rumoured to be contemplating life outside the Treasury, wants to stay and will. And many more junior officials are enthused by work on a new agenda, excited to be part of the process of modernisation.

It is to the credit of a determined and confident new Chancellor that Scottish Television has been allowed a fly's-eye view of this tumultuous chapter in the life of the Treasury, even if it means hurting a few well-established egos.

Out of the Shadows *is shown on ITV on Tuesday, September 30, at 10.40pm.* We are the Treasury *is shown in the same slot on Tuesday, October 7.*

Charlie Whelan and Gordon Brown tell the press what to think. Their methods will be seen in two documentaries

Heat is on for computer chip manufacturer

Oliver August reports on a US federal investigation into Intel

Judgment day may at last have dawned for Intel, the US microchip monopolist. For years it has been riding roughshod over market rules and used its dominant position to keep out competition. More than 80 per cent of computer chips worldwide come from the Intel stable. Few of its customers can afford to dismay the Silicon Valley scion by buying from one of its few and meagre rivals.

Computer manufacturers have repeatedly complained that Intel threatened punishment whenever the issue of competition came up. The chip shop's favoured weapon is to hint that delivery times for existing orders might slip. In the computer industry, where fashions are more short-lived than in the clothing trade, even short delays can be fatal while litigation would take years.

Now the Federal Trade Commission, the US anti-trust authority, has stepped in. It is already investigating Intel's $400 million (£247 million) acquisition of Chips & Technology, a graphics specialist. The new inquiry will be broader. The FTC subpoena says it will look at "unfair and deceptive practices in or affecting commerce by acting to monopolise".

Analysts say any number of computer companies could have instigated the inquiry. Linley Gwennap, editor of *Microprocessor Report*, said: "There is no shortage of people who could be behind this. Intel is the major supplier of virtually any semiconductor technology to the PC market." One company particularly keen to see Intel suffer is Digital Equipment Corp. It is involved in a nasty patent infringement suit against Intel and has accused Intel of monopolistic practices. However, the knives are not only out in corporate offices but also among the end-users of Intel equipment.

The Internet features a whole magazine, frequently updated and read by eight million people, devoted to slating Intel. Fury was ignited by the constant re-engineering of products and swapping around of gimmicks. Intel, along with Microsoft, its software brother, stands accused of forcing consumers into a vicious circle of having to buy new products every year just to stay level with technology.

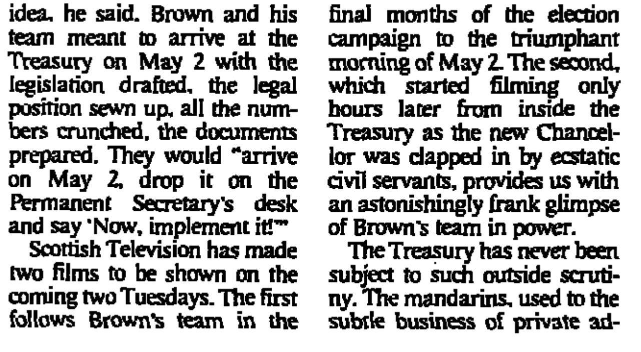
Everyone who has bought a PC or laptop in recent years will have shared the experience of possessing the best computer available at Christmas, and having an ugly piece of dinosaur equipment in the new year. New machines are suddenly twice as fast, four times more powerful and infinitely more compatible.

Crusading on these people's behalf is Jason Walter. He writes in the latest edition of *x86 Monthly News*: "As many new users and upgraders are opening the boxes to their brand new Pentium II-based systems, another group of people sit angrily as Intel has shut the door on the hopes that Pentium Pro users will be able to upgrade to the new Pentium II. We must ask the question of what is a reasonable timeframe for a standard to be supported, what kind of migration path should be available and when, and what incremental upgrade is just too small to be useful."

So far, public criticism has failed to dent Intel's prospects. Its shares are trading at an astronomic price/earnings ratio of 25. A 1991 FTC investigation ended in a whitewash for the company. Since then its competitors have strengthened slightly.

Earlier this week *x86 Monthly News* reported: "Towards the end of the year, both Cyrix and Advanced Micro Devices will start to unveil new chip technologies that could well raise the competitive pressure on chip giant Intel." Rival chips already come close to Intel's performance and cost up to 30 per cent less. Computer manufacturers such as IBM and Compaq have agreed to use these chips in their low-cost consumer products.

But the sprouting competition has done little to sour Wall Street's love affair with Intel. Over the past year its shares rose from $40 to $100. On Tuesday, Intel won another endorsement. DLJ, the investment bank with Wall Street's highest-rated research arm, upgraded its Intel rating.



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Here Dyke goes

IT IS known as the embourgeoisification of the terraces, the middle classes flocking to the football grounds. Everyone in the public eye has to have a favourite football team, in the same way that they need a favourite Spice Girl. A non-executive directorship has even more cachet than a season ticket — ask Ken Clarke, a man with years of experience of playing the common man and now a fixture in the directors' box at Nottingham Forest.

Latest recruit to the business of football is Greg Dyke, Manchester United fan man and boy — aren't they all? He is joining the United board as non-executive director. Dyke, 50, was chairman of ITV Sport, for four years, so he knows a bit about the game. United is on the point of signing a TV deal to create a dedicated channel for all those saddos who need a daily helping of their idols. Dyke is chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television. A marriage made in heaven. Except that the United deal is widely expected to be with BSkyB and Granada, and not with Pearson. And Dyke may not be there much longer, if rumours of a bust-up with Marjorie Scardino, Pearson chief executive, are true. And they are true.

□ *DETAILS of a "refurbishment opportunity" — estate agent-speak for a clapped out old office block — reach me. Situated in sunny Lambeth, 270,000 sq ft, 21 storeys, with basement car parking. But does my memory fail me, or was Century House not once the headquarters of MI5? That is the one we are allowed to know about, as against MI6, whose existence, like the Post Office Tower, was once a state secret. The agents confirm it. Ideal for the booming flat market, what with all those sound-proofed rooms, and the funny aerials on the roof would come in handy for satellite TV. Just one problem, the name. So, sort of, naff and millennial. My informant suggests Spooks Corner. I rather like Dunbuggin.*

Own show

MORE news from the acronym-ridden advertising group GGT. A few weeks ago I reported the resignation of Linda Kaplan-Thaler, the creative supremo at Wells Rich Greene, GGT's New York arm. GGT said Ms Kaplan-Thaler would stay as a consultant while she wrote an opera. Now it seems that she is doing neither. Instead she has formed her own agency, imaginatively called Kaplan-Thaler and Co, and clients are already following. More worries for poor Mike Greenlees, I fear.

Talking shop

I AM invited to the Royal Society of the Arts for a conference arranged by the Green Alliance. "Changing Consumer Choices" will debate how Government and industry can promote sustainable consumption, and how manufacturers and retailers can best play their part in educating the consumer and saving the planet. A stellar cast list of speakers include Ritt Bjerregaard, whom you will all know as EU Commissioner for Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection and whose very existence, I can tell you, allows me to sleep easily in my bed. Plus Michael Meacher, our Environment Minister, and the heads of the UK Ecolabelling Board and the Energy Saving Trust. Just one thing missing. Not a single manufacturer, not one solitary retailer.

Flag waving

ADDING to the crowd at the summit of Mount Everest for next spring's climbing season is Lewis McNaught, head of UK retail at Gartmore. McNaught has a hidden agenda, though. Halfway up Everest is the flag of the fund manager Perpetual. McNaught intends to tear it down and replace it with his own.

MARTIN WALLER

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET CLARE STEWART

Report on EMU helps lift FTSE to one-day record

THE bulls stampeded back onto the stock exchange floor yesterday, trampling worries about interest rates and Black Monday anniversary nerves underfoot.

Equities barely paused for breath as the market opened with a 36-point jump and carried on up, cruising past previous record levels to peak at 5,224.3, a massive rise of 178 points. By the close the FTSE 100 had rung up the largest one-day rise on record, closing 160.8 higher at 5,226.3.

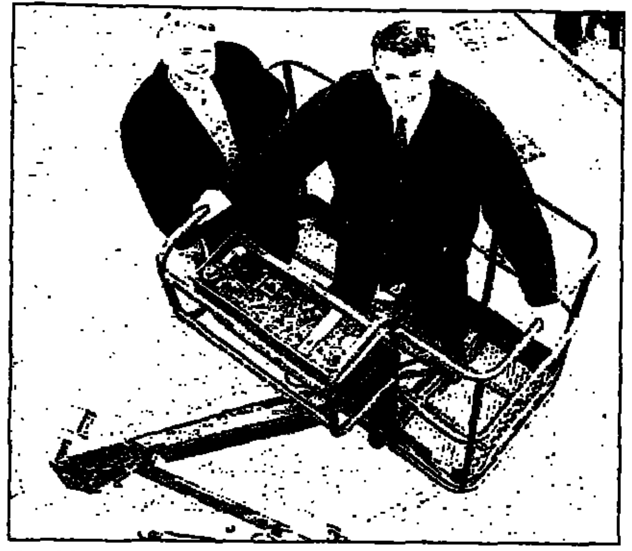
Dealers were caught short, having expected a quiet day, and the upward pressure compounded the problem of shortage of stock. The market was supported by gilts where the December future put on two points at its best, and after running into some resistance in mid afternoon trading, a rebound on Wall Street helped shares to edge higher. By the close 950 million shares had changed hands.

The immediate source of inspiration was a press report that the Government was about to unveil an EMU-friendly stance, increasing the possibility of sterling joining the monetary union after its 1999 launch. The markets needed little persuasion that the story had substance. There was also the feeling that the Government was testing the water ahead of next week's party conference.

The apparent shift in attitude towards EMU will, says Bob Semple, strategist at NatWest Markets, "underscore a more positive view towards equities and gilt". Looking forward, he added, much will depend on what moves the Government makes towards bringing forward possible timing for a referendum.

"I am not surprised at the reaction given what's been happening in the bond market," said Tim Huddart, equity strategist at Merrill Lynch. "With lower yields there is a clear upside for equities."

Amongst FTSE 100 stocks banks and insurers led the charge. **NatWest** was at the front with an 85½p rise to 944p, though at one point the price had risen 108p, fuelled by renewed bid speculation. **Bank of Scotland** rose 45p to 518½p, helped by analysts' comments. Among the best of the other banks **Royal Bank of Scotland** rose 61p to 719p, **Barclays** added 135½p to £16.64½ and **HSBC** 141p to £21.65. Overall the retail banks sector rose 6.34 per cent.



David Price, left, and David Shipman saw Lavendon rise

Grey market trading of **Northern Rock** also rose, with a range of 414p to 424p quoted by IG Index. Dealings begin on October 1 but it has emerged that 43 per cent of free share recipients have decided to cash them in.

The strong gilts market underpinned insurers with **General Accident** up 89½p to £10.80, **Royal & SunAlliance** up 46½p to 587p and **Prudential** 52½p ahead at 684p.

Utilities put on good rises, notably **United Utilities**, up 39½p to 750½p, and **Thames Water**, up 43p to 860½p.

Exporters were also clear beneficiaries as sterling slid back against the mark and dollar. **TI Group** rose 54½p to 664p with **GKN** up 90p to £14.19½. **Siebe** rose 62p to £12.25½, while **Glynwed** put on 17½p to 284p.

The engineering and vehicles sector scored the strongest rise overall with values rising nearly 9 per cent helped by the likes of GKN, with news of a bid approach for **T&N** provided a boost, described by one dealer as "the icing on the cake". T&N shares climbed 60½p to 242½p after the £1.25 billion bid approach from Federal-Mogul of the US.

First Leisure dipped 6½p to 276p on whispers of a profits warning looming, while Manchester United rose 1½p to 661½p, after the appointment of Greg Dyke, chairman of Channel 5, as a non-executive director. Capital Radio ended 10p lower at 467½p, after the resignation during the week of Richard Eyre.

Property groups enjoyed strong rises as worries about rises in interest rates were calmed, with **British Land** up 33p to 647½p, **Great Portland** 14p to 240½p and **Land Securities** 20½p to 971p.

Not all shares were swept higher by the market euphoria. **Reed International** fell 49½p to 536½p and nearly eight million shares changed hands. The group revealed that irregularities in circulation statements had been discovered at its Reed Travel Group Unit and that a charge to 1997 profits would result.

Other conspicuous losers yesterday included **GUS**, after its annual statement failed to inspire analysts, and renewed concern over the impact of sterling on overseas profits. GUS, which has enjoyed a recent run, fell back 7p to 680p on profit-taking.

Another gloomy patch amongst generally buoyant retailers was **Country Casuals**, which dropped 10p to 91p after reavealing hefty first-half losses. **Laura Ashley** put on 5½p to 64½p, helped by whispers of bid interest in the troubled group.

British Aerospace was hit by concerns over orders from Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. The crash of the Garuda airbus and the Government's recent block of two arms deals combined with uncertainties over negotiations to resolve the fate of the two British nurses in Saudi Arabia. BAe closed down 13½p at £16.21.

Brewers again looked flat in the wake of this week's mixed trading statements. **Scottish & Newcastle** fell 9p to 714p, **Greenalls** 5½p to 394½p, **Vaux** 3p to 254½p and **Greene King** 2p to 703p. **Wolverhampton & Dudley**, where one of its director sold 5,000 shares at 517p, ended off just a penny at 519p.

A profits slump and warning left **Industrial Control Services** nursing losses of 78½p at 65p, while **Lavendon Group**, whose chairman is David Price and finance director David Shipman, hit a new high, closing at 278½p, up 2p.

Hambros Insurance fell 10½p to 101p after Fishers International withdrew its takeover offer.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A busy day's trading saw prices marked higher in the morning with upper levels then held. Dealers reported the strongest demand for the five-year sector.

The December series of the long gilt closed up 50 ticks at £119 18/32 in a volume of 190,000 contracts. At the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £7/16 to £103 25/32; Treasury 8 per cent 2015 ended up £5/16 at £115 3/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips held early gains during the morning, with the Dow Jones industrial average 60.91 points higher by midday at 7,908.92.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Railtrack	913½p	+80½p	Tube sell off benefits
NatWest Bank	944p	+70½p	Strong banks sector
Boosey & Hawkes	875p	-75p	Bid talks hit problem
Redland	223p	-53p	Poor interim results
PizzaExpress	812½p	+92½p	Profits jump at year end
Wolves & Dudley	519p	-39½p	Warning of tough trading
Rank	388p	+18½p	Hopes of price recovery
Kingfisher	847½p	+60p	Rise after brokers' visit
Biocompatibles	585p	-7½p	Recovered after earlier losses

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	7908.92 (+60.91)
S&P Composite	943.69 (+5.78)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	17994.71 (-347.25)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	14710.87 (+74.28)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	905.85 (+1.34)

Sydney:

AO	2775.6 (-3.6)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4080.78 (-67.80)

Singapore:

Straits	1922.85 (+1.76)

Brussels:

General	13663.27 (+115.88)

Paris:

CAC-40	2985.63 (-19.75)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1193.50 (+10.70)

London:

FT 30	3374.2 (+97.7)
FTSE 100	5226.3 (+160.8)
FTSE 250	4809.1 (+92.9)
FTSE 350	2507.2 (+71.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2678.24 (-16.79)
FTSE All-Share	2445.86 (+66.49)
FTSE Non Financials	2441.64 (+44.73)
FTSE Fixed Interest	130.82 (+0.65)
FTSE Govt Secs	100.28 (+0.57)
Bargains	63249
SEAQ Volume	1066.8m
US$	1.6053 (-0.0210)
German Mark	2.8324 (-0.0426)
Exchange Index	99.7 (-1.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4360
£:SDR	1.1855
RPI	158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta Cv Uts	406	+ 3½
Aram Resources	103	− 2
Bristol & West Prf	117½	+ 1
Cammell Laird	150½	...
Computerland UK	147½	− 7
EMI B	124½	+ 3½
GR Holdings	52½	...
Galen Holdings	279½	+ 2
Helicon Pubslg	92½	...
I S Solutions	135½	...
Kingfisher Leisure	185	...
Reabourne Merlin	105	+ ½
SBS Group	112½	...
Science Systems	150½	+ 5½
Severn Trent B	36	− 1½
Stentor Wts	43½	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	57½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Gearhouse n/p (250)	92½	− 5
John Lusty n/p (8)	1¼	...
Langdons Foods n/p (1)	½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Norbain	286p (+34½p)
Nat West	944p (+85½p)
Bank Scotland	518½p (+45p)
TI	664p (+57½p)
Vickers	220p (+19p)
Ryl Bk Scot	719p (+61p)
MAID	214½p (+17p)
Royal & Sun Al	587p (+46½p)
Prudential	684p (+52½p)
GRE	313p (+21p)
Legal & Gen	493p (+32½p)
Delta	351p (+22p)
LucasVarity	242p (+15p)
Gr Portland	240½p (+14p)
Kingfisher	847½p (+49p)
Lloyds TSB	820½p (+45p)
Low & Bonar	291½p (+15p)
Br Land	647½p (+33p)

FALLS:

Henlys	379p (-19½p)
Capital Radio	467½p (-10p)
Scot & New	714p (-9p)
C'try Casuals	91p (-10p)
Smith WH	370½p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Rock solid shares

THE North/South divide still exists, especially among the share-owning classes. The Newcastle upon Tyne-based Northern Rock says half of its members want to sell their shares because of a lack of familiarity with the cult of share ownership. One in three households in the North East of England stand to gain from the flotation.

The Geordies would rather have the cash, £2,000 per member, than hold on to the shares. Around three quarters of members at the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich held on to shares. Unlucky Geordies had to decide on whether to hold or sell without knowing what the auction price of their shares would be and on the day before a 160-point share price rise in London. A decision to sell looks wrong.

The Northern Rock is deemed to be a high growth stock, nimble on its feet, and with a small asset base from which to sprout low-cost, high-volume business. Northern Rock's projected earnings growth looks promising. Aggressively priced loans, administered through a centralised system based in Newcastle, have helped the society's share of new mortgages to outstrip its overall share of total mortgage stock over the past few years.

It has also managed to move away from its regional bias — more than 60 per cent of its new lending is done in the Midlands and the South East. It is poised to reap rewards from continuing recovery in the housing market.

With a flotation price of around 420p predicted, it is worth holding the stock up to 500p. At that level its earnings multiple will become greater than the Halifax, the price of which is already boosted by technical factors.

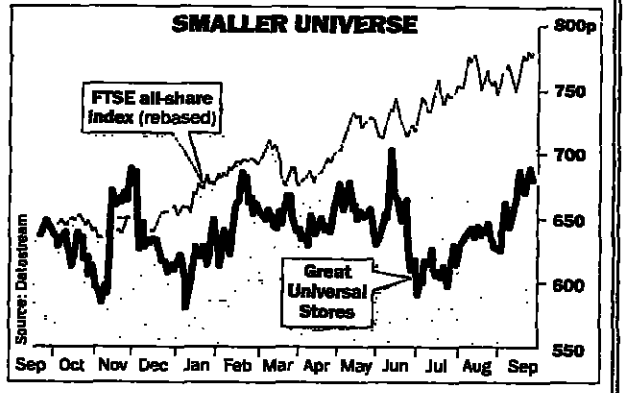
GUS

THE GUS share price mirrors the view of investors on how close the chairman, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, is to coming up with a masterplan. When they think he is focusing on the big picture, the share price rises. When, as yesterday, it looks as if he is struggling to deal with lots of disparate businesses, it falls.

GUS's trading statement showed that retail is currently being difficult, with Burberry having problems coping with the strong pound against the yen. The modest growth in mail order confirms that, long term, this is the most difficult business.

Lord Wolfson has already disappointed the market several times by not saying how he intends to update the creaking mail order side. If he feels in no rush, it is probably because, if the DTI decides to block the Littlewoods bid for Freemans, a threat to GUS's dominance of the market will disappear. Whichever way it goes, that decision will be key to GUS's mail order strategy. That aside, GUS has enormous room for manoeuvre. It will get £500 million next Spring from its deal with British Land, and even before then could gear up to make a major purchase that would remove mail order from the centre of the group. Despite the distractions of trading difficulties, it is probably safe to assume that the masterplan is being worked upon. This makes yesterday's price fall a good opportunity to buy.

SMALLER UNIVERSE



T&N

NO ONE seemed to believe the long-suffering management of T&N, the car parts group, when it said the problems of asbestosis were largely behind it. Plainly the board of Federal Mogul has taken a different view and thinks now is the time to strike.

Being American, Federal Mogul would have a far stronger grasp of the legal problems that T&N faces than other potential suitors. And being in the automotive supply business Federal Mogul may well have grasped the fact that T&N is reaching a period of strong cash generation after cutting down on capital expenditure and reducing working capital.

The men from Michigan need to convince not only the T&N board but have to persuade fund managers at the four big City institutions that control 54 per cent of T&N that 235p is enough. The big funds appear to be waiting to see what happens next, whether Federal Mogul will offer more or whether another bidder appears.

Similarly, the T&N board appears in no hurry to respond to Federal Mogul and was happy to put out a holding statement saying that it was evaluating the proposal with Rothschilds.

Smaller shareholders should adopt a similar stance and hold on for further developments.

Toad

PUTTING money into a company backed by Noel Edmonds may not feel like common sense, but Toad is worth a second glance. Since it moved from the AIM to the main market last year, the company has been dogged by haphazard management, poor distribution, a lack of focus and overenthusiastic claims about its potential.

But many of these problems — apart from perhaps the last — now appear to have been addressed. Chris Evans, the biotech entrepreneur behind the company, instigated a dramatic boardroom shake-up earlier this year, and Toad is poised to buy two companies, Laserline and Sigma, which will give it a much improved distribution base and product range.

However, many potential investors will be more excited by the company's latest gizmo: an anti-theft tracking device the size of a snuffbox which can be hidden almost anywhere inside a car. Two big questions remain unanswered: will technology overtake it, and will thieves find a way to locate the tracker or destroy its signal? If not, the potential for licensing deals and European sales is enormous.

An independent consultancy has already valued the device at £30 million. Add to that the reputation of Dr Evans, a rock-bottom share price, improving results and ... er, Noel Edmonds, and you get a company which looks worth a punt.

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101½	100	Treas 6¾% 1997	100		6.75	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	[illegible]	− [illegible]	14.91	6.92
115½	[illegible]	Treas [illegible] 1998	115½		4.00	6.89
103¼	100¼	Exch 9¾% 1998	100¼	− [illegible]	9.68	6.99
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	100¼ †		7.24	6.99
110¼	[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	[illegible]	− [illegible]	13.42	6.99
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible] †	− [illegible]	14.34	7.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]		11.40	7.02
105¼	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.22	6.97
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	107¼ †	+ [illegible]	11.41	6.93
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	105½	+ [illegible]	9.96	6.93
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.09	6.83
109¼	106¼	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.62	6.93
106½	104¼	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.59	6.80
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.71	6.65
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2000	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.21	6.81
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	115½	+ [illegible]	11.26	6.81
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	110¼	+ [illegible]	9.08	6.61
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.88	6.65
[illegible]						
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
[illegible]						
LONGS (over 15 years)						
[illegible]						
UNDATED						
[illegible]						
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:						
[illegible]						

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 97	119-30	120-06	119-30	120-06	540
Previous open interest 177578	Dec 97	118-28	119-27	118-25	119-18	192803
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	102.72	102.90	102.69	102.80	129601
Previous open interest 290030	Mar 98	101.94	102.00	101.94	102.01	675
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	111.95	112.48	111.90	112.39	41400
Previous open interest 123883	Mar 98				112.27	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	128.39	128.49	128.38	128.45	3055
	Mar 98	127.37	127.45	127.33	127.36	1229
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.64	92.65	92.56	92.56	30023
	Mar 98	92.64	92.66	92.53	92.54	39326
Previous interest 639096	Jun 98	92.69	92.74	92.61	92.62	41142
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.42	96.43	96.40	96.42	36019
Previous open interest 1576935	Mar 98	96.19	96.21	96.17	96.18	33289
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.98	94.03	93.96	94.02	11284
Previous open interest 396481	Mar 98	94.68	94.73	94.63	94.73	13605
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98				99.40	0
	Jun 98	99.37	99.37	99.37	99.35	945
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	98.23	98.24	98.21	98.24	3334
Previous open interest 150561	Mar 98	98.03	98.04	97.98	98.04	3431
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.58	95.59	95.57	95.58	627
Previous open interest 34549	Mar 98	95.53	95.55	95.53	95.53	206
FTSE 100	Dec 97	5190.0	5349.0	5180.0	5336.0	14319
Previous open interest 66098	Mar 98				5381.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7⅛ Low 6½ Week fixed: 7

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7 ; 3 mth 7 . Sell: 2 mth 6⅞ ; 3 mth: 6⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7 1/32-6 31/32	7 1/32-7 1/32	7 3/32-7 1/32	7⅛-7 1/16	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7 1/16	7 3/16-7⅛	7¼-7 3/16	7 13/32-7 11/32	7 17/32-7 15/32
Interbank:	7⅛-7 1/16	7 3/16-7⅛	7¼-7 3/16	7 13/32-7 11/32	7 17/32-7 15/32

Overnight: open 7 1/16, close 7 .

Local Authority Deps:	7 1/16	n/a	7 3/16	7⅜	7½
Sterling CDs:	7 3/32-7 1/32	7 5/32-7⅛	7 7/32-7 3/32	7 11/32-7¼	7 17/32-7 15/32
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.60	5.71	5.91
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7 1/16	7 7/32-7 5/32	7¼-7 3/16	7 13/32-7 11/32	7 9/16-7½

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £935m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.28% received: 94%; Last week: £98.28% received: 25%; Avge rate: £6.8969% last wk £6.8713%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 11/16-5 9/16	5 21/32-5 17/32	5 25/32-5 23/32	5 15/16-5 13/16	5¾-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2 15/16	3 1/16-3	3½-3 3/16	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3 3/16-3 1/16	3⅜-3 3/16	3 7/16-3⅜	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1 11/16-1 9/16	1⅝-1½	1 11/16-1 9/16	1⅝-1½	1⅛-⅞
Yen:	⅜-5/16	⅜-5/16	½-⅜	9/16-7/16	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $325.70-326.00 **Close:** $327.00-327.50 **High:** $327.00-327.50 **Low:** $325.00-325.50 **AM:** $325.45 **PM:** $326.65

Krugerrand: $326.75-328.75 (£203.25-205.25)

Platinum: $430.00 (£267.90) **Silver:** $4.79 (£2.975) **Palladium:** $193.00 (£120.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 26	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1748-3.1898	3.1866-3.1898	1-¾pr	3⅛-2⅞pr
Brussels	58.170-58.529	58.436-58.529	20-15pr	55-48pr
Copenhagen	10.731-10.791	10.783-10.791	¾-¼pr	1-½pr
Dublin	1.0960-1.1085	1.1017-1.1044	10-4pr	31-24pr
Frankfurt	2.8188-2.8349	2.8324-2.8349	⅞-¾pr	2⅜-2¼pr
Lisbon	286.88-288.60	288.29-288.60	⅝-⅜pr	1⅝-1⅛pr
Madrid	238.00-239.24	238.96-239.24	41-31pr	131-113pr
Milan	2754.8-2767.3	2763.5-2767.3	20-4pr	66-44pr
Montreal	2.2189-2.2341	2.2236-2.2256	0.70-0.65pr	1.32-1.24pr
New York	1.6040-1.6140	1.6054-1.6062	0.203-0.182pr	0.618-0.587pr
Oslo	11.379-11.465	11.451-11.465	¾-¼pr	1-½pr
Paris	9.4660-9.5143	9.5056-9.5143	3⅛-2⅞pr	9⅛-8⅝pr
Stockholm	12.045-12.186	12.172-12.186	⅝-⅛pr	⅞-⅜pr
Tokyo	193.61-194.98	194.31-194.51	5⅝-5¼pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Vienna	19.835-19.952	19.933-19.952	⅝-⅛pr	1⅞-1⅜pr
Zurich	2.3574-2.3403	2.3375-2.3402	1⅛-1pr	3⅞-3⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3793-1.3802
Austria	12.40-12.41
Belgium (Com)	36.39-36.43
Canada	1.3841-1.3846
Denmark	6.7112-6.7132
France	5.9180-5.9190
Germany	1.7625-1.7630
Hong Kong	7.7375-7.7385
Ireland	1.4505-1.4525
Italy	1722.75-1723.75
Japan	120.88-120.98
Malaysia	3.1330-3.1380
Netherlands	1.9848-1.9858
Norway	7.1224-7.1274
Portugal	179.40-179.50
Singapore	1.5225-1.5235
Spain	148.72-148.82
Sweden	7.5585-7.5660
Switzerland	1.4540-1.4550

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6079-1.6106
Australia dollar	2.2140-2.2165
Bahrain dinar	0.6025-0.6165
Brazil real*	1.7582-1.7626
China yuan	13.246-13.546
Cyprus pound	0.8395-0.8585
Finland markka	8.4325-8.5735
Greece drachma	444.5-455.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.4164-12.4234
India rupee	57.94-59.24
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4845-0.4955
Malaysia ringgit	5.0275-5.0377
New Zealand dollar	2.4976-2.5006
Pakistan rupee	63.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8200-5.9550
Singapore dollar	2.4433-2.4458
S Africa rand (com)	7.4910-7.6600
U A E dirham	5.8725-6.0085

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	751	Ladbroke	8,400
ASDA Gp	6,900	Land Secs	4,200
Abbey Ntl	5,700	Legal & Gn	6,100
Allnce & Leic	5,200	Lloyds TSB	21,800
Allied Dom	3,500	LucasVarity	3,000
AB Foods	842	Marks Spr	6,100
BAA	2,600	Mercury Ast	1,100
BAT Inds	12,600	NatWst Bk	14,900
BG	8,100	Nat Grid	6,200
BOC	660	Nat Power	4,900
BP	11,000	Next	1,100
BSkyB	3,600	Orange	2,000
BTR	18,300	P & O	3,300
BT	38,300	Pearson	4,200
Bk of Scot	16,300	PowerGen	5,000
Barclays	9,600	Prudential	13,500
Bass	6,300	RMC	786
Blue Circle	2,000	Railtrack	2,800
Boots	4,400	Rank Group	3,700
BAe	2,000	Reckitt Col	505
BA	2,800	Reed Intl	12,200
British Land	4,900	Rentokil	10,700
Brit Steel	8,100	Reuters	5,200
Burmah Cstl	401	Rio Tinto	3,700
Cable Wire	5,300	Rolls Royce	6,900
Cadbury	3,800	Royal & Sun	9,400
Carlton Cms	6,100	Royal Bk Sct	7,100
Centrica	22,200	Safeway	3,700
Cm Union	6,900	Sainsbury	3,300
Dixons	3,300	Schroders	153
EMI	1,900	Scot & New	2,500
Energy Gp	826	Scot Power	3,600
Enterpr Oil	6,000	Svrn Trent	2,800
GKN	1,600	Shell Trans	22,800
GRE	7,400	Siebe	3,000
GUS	7,600	SmKl Bch	14,600
Gen Acc	1,900	Smiths Inds	1,400
Gen Elec	9,900	Std Chartd	5,300
Glaxo Well	9,200	TI Gp	2,400
Granada	6,900	Tate & Lyle	1,200
Grand Met	3,200	Tesco	6,100
Guinness	8,500	Thames W	1,800
HSBC	6,400	Tomkins	2,700
Halifax	11,000	Unilever	2,100
Hanson	511	Utd Utilities	4,100
Hays	679	Utd News	2,200
ICI	2,500	Vodafone	12,900
Imp Tob	5,000	Whitbread	1,600
Kingfisher	3,900	Wolseley	1,600
LASMO	1,300	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

[illegible]

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

NEWS

Hague ready to abandon peers

■ William Hague is preparing to abandon the Tories' longstanding opposition to Labour plans to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The unexpected move, which would mark the biggest policy shift since Mr Hague became leader, would put him on a new collision course with the Tory old guard who have always defended the hereditary principle .... Pages 1, 22

EMU reports help stock market surge

■ Reports claiming that the Government is preparing for an early entry into a European single currency pushed the stock market to a record high, but caused the pound to plunge. The FTSE 100 closed up 160.8, at 5226.3 .... Pages 1, 27, 31

War crimes charges

A 77-year-old retired British Rail worker has been charged with war crimes in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, police said .... Page 1

Tobacco ban plea

The Government is to press for a Europe-wide ban on the advertising of tobacco .... Page 2

Assisi earthquakes

Two earthquakes in central Italy killed at least nine people and badly damaged priceless frescoes in Assisi .... Page 3

Burglary with violence

A self-taught antiques expert who used violence to force his accomplices to burgle victims was jailed for 20 years .... Page 5

Two Fat Ladies

America has greeted the arrival of *Two Fat Ladies* with the polite, nervous smile of someone offered an unidentifiable, pungent forkful of a foreign cuisine ... Pages 16, 23
Vision, Page 13

Trouble on two wheels

Anthony Adams was fined for cycling "furiously" through Cambridge — and cyclists are under the spotlight .... Page 13

Party time for party

What a difference an election makes. Next week's Labour Party conference has become the most in demand social and political gathering of the year .... Page 18

Winnie's victory

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has won the right to give evidence in public at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission .... Pages 16, 23

Sumatra crash

All 234 people on board a Garuda Indonesia Airbus A300 airliner died when it crashed in thick haze on Sumatra .... Page 17

Fugitive killer held

Ben Macintyre unfolds the saga of an American hippie-era guru who is fighting extradition ...... Page 20

Labour goes for a gay old time

The Labour leadership has approved a gay night at the party conference hotel where Tony Blair and the rest of the Cabinet are staying. The event will rival the more raucous attractions of the traditional Welsh and Scottish evenings .... Page 1

AFP

Tetsuo the hippopotamus examines his Japanese audience yesterday from the safety of his water-filled glass tank in Tennoji Zoo in Osaka

NEWS FEATURES

English vineyards: English wine-makers are predicting a great vintage after a long *summer of almost perfect conditions* .... Page 8

Double role: Since the general election, Tony Blair's wife has had to be two people at once: Cherie Booth the Queen's Counsel, and Cherie Blair, First Lady to an increasingly presidential Prime Minister .... Page 19

Ulster troubles: Mo Mowlem doesn't think the Rev Ian Paisley will come to the talks, "but that doesn't mean you don't try" .... Page 21

OPINION

Fools rush in: To enter EMU at all would be to hazard Britain's prosperity on a project which is politically flawed. To enter in the wake of the first wave would be to make a mockery of the claim that Labour's position is pragmatic. Tony Blair would never be forgiven .... Page 23

OBITUARIES

Tom Greeves, architectural conservationist and draughtsman; **Jimmy Witherspoon**, blues singer; **Bill Hunter Christie**, barrister .... Page 25

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: I am against primitive punishments. I am against them whether the victim is male or female, British or foreign .... Page 27

Tim Hames: Last month, Labour marked 100 days in office. It did so in a carnival atmosphere. William Hague endured a rather less rapturous anniversary. One can only hope that Ffion has a better honeymoon .... Page 22

LETTERS

Tory reform; relevance of the Church; the importance of inquiries .... Page 23

BUSINESS

Building societies: Almost half of Northern Rock Building Society members have sold their shares before the start of dealing .... Page 27

Takeover bid: Shares in T&N, the components group laid low by asbestosis claims, soared 60p to 242½p after a takeover approach from Federal Mogul .... Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 160.8 points, to close at 5226.3. The sterling index fell from 101.8 to 99.7 after a fall from $1.6263 to $1.6053 and from DM2.8750 to DM2.8324 .... Page 31

SPORT

Golf: Jesper Parnevik levelled the score at 2-2 after the opening *fourballs* in the Ryder Cup ..... Page 33

Cricket: Phil Tufnell, the England spin bowler, faces disciplinary action after failing to supply a specimen for a drug test .... Page 41

Tennis: Pete Sampras reached the semi-finals of the Grand Slam Cup with an easy victory over Jonas Bjorkman .... Page 40

NATURE NOTES

Peter Brookes ...... Page 22

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

David Blunkett: Labour's Education Secretary is ready to fight .... Page 8
Insider dealing: What did Washington know about the bomb plot? .... Page 16
Fashion: For all the glamour of the catwalk, behind the scenes casual dress is the norm .... Page 48
Rich kids: .... Page 25

metro

The People: We, the People are ready to conquer America .... Page 6
Just life?: Backstage at the National with Paul Rhys .... Page 10
Paul's rage: Mike Pattenden finds Paul Draper railing against the world .... Page 12

WEEKEND

Ordure, ordure: Michael Gove and *The Times's* Peter Brookes .... Page 1
Jamaican death: Tunku Varadarajan mourns the loss of a friend ...... Page 3
Favourite shop: Lady *Cobbold's CRA* ...... Page 4
Trouser dilemma: The latest wide-legged styles are the answer .... Page 5

Vision

Full seven-day Radio & TV guide
Two Fat Ladies: . Page 13
Paul Hoggart: .... Page 2
The Arts: The ENO production, 10pm, BBC2, today

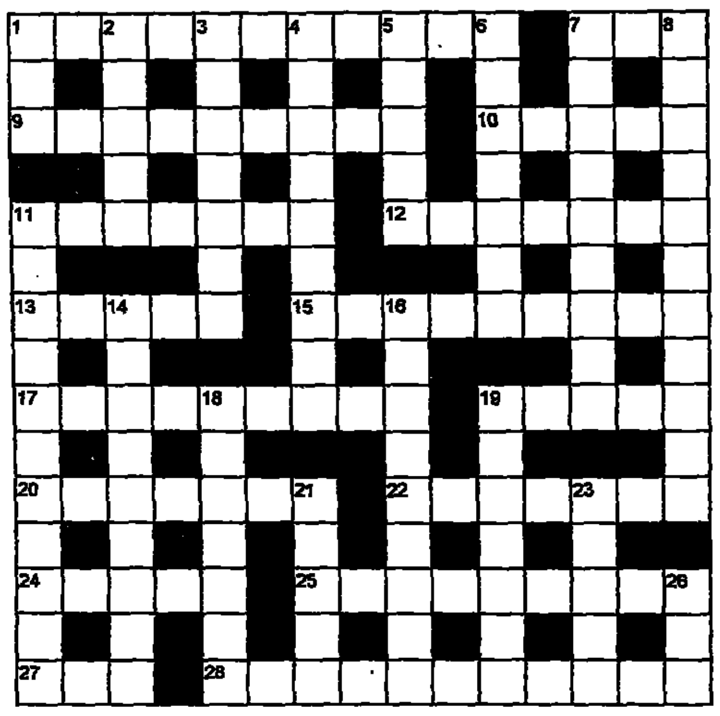
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,596

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



ACROSS
1 A strong company needs backing for a musical? Yes! (11).
7 Glossy black spout (3).
9 Pot plant – the alternative judge's put in (9).
10 One in bed reciting numbers of sheep (5).
11 Looking to compete with political group (7).
12 A person I'd announced as a literary giant (3-4).
13 Very well-conceived sort of prize has a twist in the tail (5).
15 Giving more in a ball-game, one about to be over (9).
17 Turning out part of army, head of state has little time (9).
19 A dim recollection about start of Handel's "Messiah" (5).
20 Case in which PM once put clothes (7).
22 A minor beating? Exploit a bit of advice, making comeback (3-1-3).
24 Friend has no right to make one shudder (5).
25 Cocktail with a kick – sick female comes staggering in (5,4).
27 Hairy beast has girl in a spin (3).
28 Clothing accessory ought to drape differently (8-3).

DOWN
1 Somewhat heated – losing head – set to explode? (5).
2 Shrub or trees, say (5).
3 Celebrate about author's announcement (7).
4 Feeling numb again – sale going wrong? (9).
5 Final stage of motorway put up in the past (5).
6 Precise type of railway service (7).
7 Submarine menace with explosive – search below (9).
8 Expert at stuffing tried it with Xmas cooking (11).
11 Throwing in a double act unsuitable for radio (11).
14 Attack half of what's included in public transport cut (9).
16 Odd cut in play after revision (9).
18 Leaves to celebrate a triumph (7).
19 Reviewed in Times as an artist (7).
21 Banned, thanks to catcall? (5).
23 Edge in very quietly, and smarten up (5).
26 The final thing duplicated in puzzle, in more ways than one (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,590

D	I	R	E	C	T	A	C	T	I	O	N			
E		O		O		R		A		N		F		S
P	L	A	I	N	T	I	F	F		S	U	I	T	E
L		S		S		D		F		E		S		X
O	P	T	I	C	S		C	R	O	T	C	H	E	T
R				R				A				W		E
E	A	R	W	I	G		M	I	S	P	R	I	N	T
		E		P		C		L		A		F		
S	E	D	I	T	I	O	N		F	R	I	E	N	D
A		C				C				T				I
T	U	R	N	P	I	K	E		B	Y	P	A	S	S
R		O		R		A		B		L		M		S
A	S	S	A	I		T	U	R	P	I	T	U	D	E
P		S		M		O		U		N		S		C
			B	E	L	O	W	T	H	E	B	E	L	T

Solution to Puzzle No 20,595

H	U	S	S	A	R		S	C	I	S	S	O	R	S
I		I		V		L		O		T		L		E
S	O	M	M	E	L	I	E	R		A	D	D	U	P
T		E		R		T		R		N		N		A
A	G	N	E	S		T	R	E	A	D	M	I	L	L
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N				E		B		O		W				A
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Y		M		C		T		N		R		S		I
D	E	B	I	T		T	A	C	T	I	C	I	A	N
R		L		O		L		E		E		V		A
O	N	E	A	R	M	E	D		O	R	D	E	A	L

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *R Jukes, Wightwick, Wolverhampton; P Savill, Chew Stoke, Bristol; K Rowland, Embleton, Northumberland; D Love, Claygate, Esher, Surrey; P G Hughes, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6 55 am	Sun sets: 6 48 pm
Moon sets 5 07 pm	Moon rises 2.27 am

New moon October 1

London 6 43 pm to 6 56 am
Bristol 6 57 pm to 7 06 am
Edinburgh 6 59 pm to 7 10 am
Manchester 6 55 pm to 7 06 am
Penzance 7 09 pm to 7 18 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises 6 56 am	Sun sets 6 45 pm
Moon sets 5 33 pm	Moon rises 3.28 am

New moon October 1

London 6 45 pm to 6 58 am
Bristol 6 55 pm to 7 08 am
Edinburgh 6 56 pm to 7 12 am
Manchester 6 53 pm to 7 07 am
Penzance 7 07 pm to 7 19 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11 39	6.6	-	-
Aberdeen	11 52	3.7	-	-
Avonmouth	04 54	10.3	17 23	10.9
Belfast	09 09	3.0	21 14	3.3
Cardiff	04 40	9.7	17 09	10.2
Devonport	03 34	4.5	15 59	4.8
Dover	09 06	5.7	21 42	5.7
Dublin (N Wall)	09 54	3.6	22 12	3.9
Falmouth	02 05	4.3	15 30	4.6
Greenock	11 01	2.9	23 52	3.1
Harwich	09 35	3.3	22 18	3.5
Holyhead	08 48	4.7	21 03	5.0
Hull (Albert D)	04 09	7.3	16 53	7.3
Ilfracombe	03 52	7.2	16 21	7.7
King's Lynn	04 12	5.4	17 02	5.5
Leith	00 15	4.7	12 59	4.7
Liverpool	09 22	7.8	21 46	8.2
Lowestoft	07 21	2.3	20 27	2.3
Margate	09 53	4.1	22 41	4.2
Milford Haven	04 10	5.4	16 38	5.8
Newquay	03 08	5.5	15 35	5.3
Oban	04 18	3.1	16 51	3.4
Penzance	02 36	4.4	15 00	4.7
Portland	05 06	1.4	17 09	1.5
Portsmouth	09 42	4.0	21 57	4.0
Shoreham	09 10	5.0	21 44	5.0
Southampton	09 03	4.0	21 22	4.1
Swansea	04 00	7.4	16 33	7.8
Tees	01 22	4.5	14 04	4.5
Walton-on-N	09 33	3.4	22 12	3.6

All times BST. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, 24C (75F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: no appreciable rainfall; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 10.1hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 45.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a rather cloudy day but any early mist and local drizzle should clear to allow at least a few bright or sunny intervals. Northern England, North Wales and the north Midlands will also have a good deal of cloud at first but these parts will have a better chance of seeing a little sunshine in the afternoon. The south Midlands, South Wales and southern England should soon brighten after a misty start, with some pleasant sunny spells developing.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** early low cloud and fog should soon disperse to leave a dry and bright day with sunny spells. A light and variable wind. Max temp 21C (70F).

☐ **E Anglia, Midlands, E England, S Wales:** any early fog should clear to leave a mainly dry day with banks of cloud and a sunny intervals. A light and variable wind. Max temp 19C (66F).

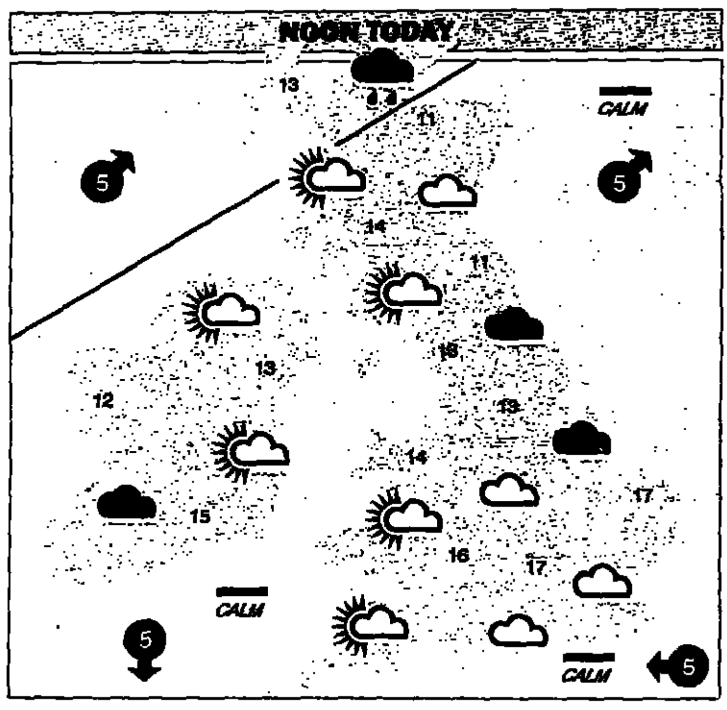
☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** mainly cloudy, but any early mist and drizzle should clear. A few sunny spells are likely. A light and variable wind. Max temp 17C (63F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland:** a cloudy day with limited bright or sunny spells. It should be mainly dry, but occasional drizzle is possible at first. Light and variable wind. Max temp 17C (63F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly cloudy with a little drizzle near the north-west coast and over the hills. Occasional breaks in the cloud should allow a few sightings of the sun. A light south-west wind. Max temp 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** England and Wales should stay mostly dry with sunny spells, but light rain will reach northwest Scotland later tomorrow and spread across the rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland on Monday.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

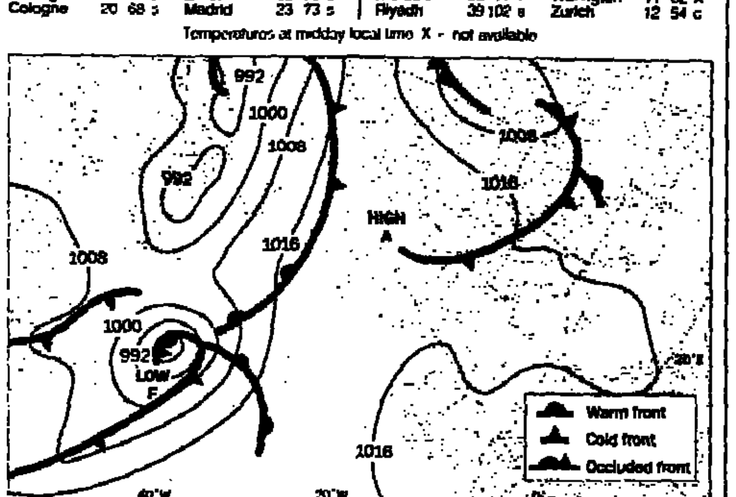
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.5	0.01	13	55	c
Anglesey	0.3	-	16	61	c
Aspatria	1.1	0.01	14	57	d
Aviemore	7.5	-	17	63	s
Belfast	0.9	0.01	15	59	du
Birmingham	0.7	-	17	63	c
Bognor R	9.7	-	22	72	s
Bournem'th	8.9	-	22	72	s
Bristol	1.7	-	19	66	b
Buxton	0.3	0.01	13	55	du
Cardiff	4.6	-	18	64	b
Clacton	x	-	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	0.1	-	16	61	c
Colwyn Bay	-	-	16	61	c
Cromer	1.0	-	17	63	c
Dunbar	1.0	-	13	55	du
Eastbourne	8.1	-	20	68	s
Edinburgh	1.6	0.01	13	55	d
Eskdalemuir	1.1	0.01	12	54	d
Exmouth	5.5	-	19	66	s
Falmouth	9.3	-	17	63	s
Fishguard	4.1	-	18	64	du
Folkestone	10.1	-	21	70	s
Glasgow	1.5	0.01	20	68	c
Guernsey	9.0	-	20	68	s
Hastings	8.4	-	21	70	s
Hayling I	1.3	-	22	72	s
Herne Bay	8.3	-	19	66	s
Hove	8.5	-	23	73	s
Hunstanton	-	-	16	61	c
Isle-of-man	X				
Isle-of-wight	9.0	-	X	X	s
Jersey	10.1	0.01	23	73	s
Kinloss	7.9	-	13	55	s
Leeds	-	0.01	15	59	c
Lerwick	X	-	12	54	s
Leuchars	0.3	-	13	55	c
Littlehmptn	8.5	-	22	72	s
London	6.6	-	21	70	s
Lowestoft	3.8	-	17	63	s
Manchester	0.6	-	16	61	c
Margate	8.7	-	19	66	s
Minehead	0.1	-	16	61	c
Morecambe	-	-	15	59	du
Newcastle	1.1	0.01	14	57	d
Newquay	9.2	-	19	66	s
Norwich	1.2	-	17	63	c
Oxford	2.1	-	19	66	
Penzance	X	-	19	66	s
Poole	X				
Prestatyn	X				
Ross-o-wye	0.8	-	18	64	b
Salcombe	7.6	-	17	63	b
Saunton Snd	3.3	-	19	66	s
Scarboro'	-	-	15	59	c
Shrewsbury	-	-	16	61	du
Skegness	X				
Southend	X				
Southport	X				
Southsea	8.7	-	24	75	s
Stornoway	5.3	-	17	63	fg
Swanage	8.2	-	20	68	s
Teignmouth	4.7	-	18	64	s
Tenby	2.9	-	17	63	b
Tiree	3.5	-	14	57	c
Torquay	4.7	-	20	68	s
Tynemouth	-	-	13	55	du
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	8.8	-	19	66	s

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	25	77	s
Akrotiri	24	75	s
Alex'dria	27	81	s
Algiers	28	82	s
Amst'dm	19	66	s
Athens	25	77	f
B Aires	16	61	f
Bahrain	39	103	s
Bangkok	32	90	f
Barbados	30	86	f
Barcelona	24	75	c
Beirut	27	81	f
Belgrade	18	64	f
Berlin	20	68	s
Bermuda	28	82	f
Biarritz	24	75	s
Borde'x	24	75	s
Brussels	19	66	s
Budapest	19	66	s
Cairo	29	84	s
Cape Tn	19	66	s
Ch'church	11	52	X
Chicago	23	73	s
Cologne	20	68	s
Corfu	27	81	s
C'phagn	17	63	s
Dublin	16	61	f
Dubrovnik	23	73	f
Faro	25	77	f
Florence	25	77	s
Frankfurt	19	66	s
Funchal	24	75	f
Geneva	19	66	s
Gibraltar	25	77	f
Helsinki	17	63	s
Hong K	30	86	f
Innsbrck	19	66	s
Istanbul	21	70	f
Jeddah	35	95	s
Jo'burg	25	77	s
L Angels	23	73	f
L Palmas	27	81	f
Le Tquet	20	68	s
Lisbon	23	73	f
Locarno	20	68	s
Luxembg	19	66	s
Luxor	35	95	s
Madrid	23	73	s
Majorca	27	81	c
Malaga	26	79	f
Malta	25	81	f
Melb'rne	15	59	s
Mexico C	17	63	d
Miami	32	90	s
Milan	23	73	s
Montreal	15	59	s
Moscow	3	37	c
Munich	17	63	s
N Delhi	34	93	s
N York	19	66	s
Nairobi	29	84	f
Naples	25	77	s
Nice	25	77	s
Oslo	17	63	s
Paris	21	70	s
Peking	20	68	s
Perth	18	64	c
Prague	17	63	s
Reykjavik	11	52	f
Rhodes	23	73	s
Rio de J	25	77	f
Riyadh	39	102	s
Rome	26	79	s
S Fr'isco	21	70	s
S Paulo	25	77	c
Salzburg	18	64	s
Santiago	22	72	s
Seoul	14	57	r
Sing'por	31	88	c
St'kholm	18	64	f
Strasb'rg	20	68	s
Sydney	14	57	r
Tangier	28	82	f
Tel Aviv	27	81	f
Tenerife	29	84	s
Tokyo	22	72	c
Toronto	14	57	c
Tunis	24	75	c
Valencia	25	77	f
Vanc'ver	19	66	f
Venice	21	70	f
Vienna	17	63	c
Warsaw	14	57	c
Wash'ton	20	68	f
Wel'ngton	11	52	X
Zurich	12	54	c

Temperatures at midday local time X - not available



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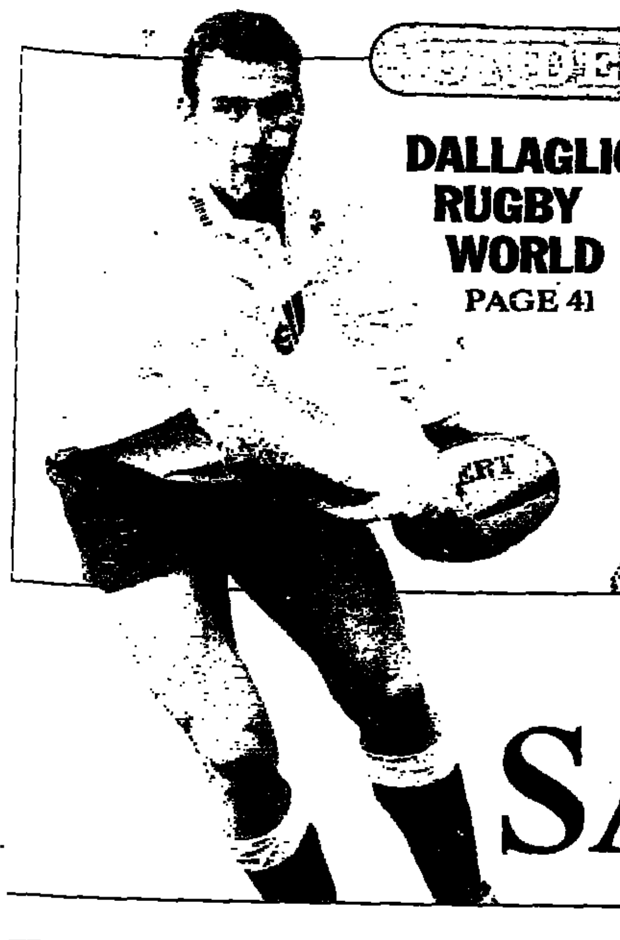
هكذا من الاعلى

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



DALLAGLIO'S RUGBY WORLD
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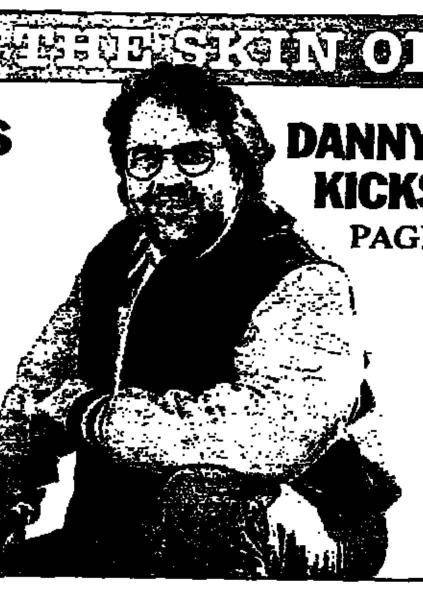

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THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

TIDES OF FORTUNE ON NERVE-RACKING OPENING DAY

Europeans produce level best

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT VALDERRAMA

EUROPE and the United States were as evenly matched as anybody could want when darkness ended the rain-delayed first day of the 32nd Ryder Cup here yesterday. After the morning four-balls had finished 2-2, the afternoon foursomes were perfectly balanced, too, with the score standing at 3-3 when play was suspended.

Colin Montgomerie and a clearly inspired Bernhard Langer took revenge for being beaten by Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara in the morning four-balls by storming to victory by 5 and 3 in the foursomes. Montgomerie was a man transformed after a brief stop for lunch. His erratic play of the morning was gone and, perhaps because of this, he smiled a lot. He and Langer were five under par when they beat Woods and O'Meara in the gathering gloom.

Hardly had the applause for this victory died down than Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen survived a rally by Costantino Rocca and José María Olazábal. The Europeans won the 17th with a birdie but, at the 18th, Olazábal drove into the cork trees that line the hole and the ball bizarrely ended in a waste bin. After dropping the ball, Rocca hit an heroic second to within ten feet. Olazábal missed, Hoch holed and the US pair, who had never been behind in the match, had won by the slenderest possible margin.

As the day wore on, so it became more and more typical of the closeness of modern Ryder Cups. There were many moments when it looked as though the US might edge into a clear lead, but again and again Europe fought back.

Like a general in a medieval battle, Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, was to be seen roaming the course wearing an earpiece that told him what was going on elsewhere. He was far more conspicuous in his presence than Tom Kite, the US captain, and was fulfilling his promise that he would be a hands-on captain.

In the morning four-balls, the fearsome Valderrama course was humbled. Olazábal and Rocca were a generous six under par in defeating Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson, while Jesper Parnevik and Per-Ulrik Johansson, despite taking an excruciating five hours and 42 minutes — the longest four-ball match in Ryder Cup history — went round in 64, to claim a famous victory.

After lunch Kite brought in fresh faces, pairing Hoch with Janzen and Justin Leonard with Jeff Maggert, thereby giving every one of his team a game on the first day. Ballesteros sent out all but one of the men that he had used in the four-balls for the afternoon foursomes. Johansson was dropped for Ignacio Garrido.

Staying true to seven of his players was a decision that may have been forced upon Ballesteros by Ian Woosnam's poor form, or it may have been his choice. It may backfire over the course of this event. For now it is sufficient to say that two of Ballesteros's oldest players, Langer, who is a few days past his fortieth birthday, and Nick Faldo, who was 40 in July, seemed inspired by the occasion.

Faldo, in particular, was like a man reborn and one stroke in the afternoon foursomes demonstrated how much better he was playing than he had in so many strokeplay events this year. A most delicate bunker shot on the 7th in the foursomes set up a victory on that hole to level the match against Leonard and Maggert. On the 8th it was Faldo's shot to no more than two feet that enabled his partner, Lee Westwood to make a birdie and take a one-hole lead.

It does not rain often in Spain at the end of September, but it certainly did yesterday morning. A torrential storm hit the Costa del Sol just after 5am. Within half an hour bunkers were full of water, the course was unplayable and play was delayed for nearly two hours.

No sooner had it started than Rocca and Olazábal dovetailed as smoothly as Ballesteros had hoped they would when he put them together, citing their confidence in each other and the fact that they looked comfortable together. Such an insight was borne out when the two players recovered from being two down after 11 holes to score Europe's first point after a remarkable run of three birdies and an eagle in four holes, starting at the 13th.

Westwood, though, ran into the pressure of the Ryder Cup in much the same way as a runaway train hits the buffers. After two birdies in his first three holes of the morning four-ball, the second of which enabled he and Faldo to take a one-hole lead over Fred Couples and Brad Faxon, his game disintegrated. He contributed little to the partnership for 12 holes.

Of greater concern to Ballesteros and the Europe team was the poor play of Montgomerie, who hit only three fairways and four greens all morning. After declaring a number of times recently how much he wanted to play Woods it was ironic that when he did he found Woods off form, yet was even more off his game himself. Montgomerie's driving was very wayward — an uncharacteristic fault that has bothered him for much of the year.

There is something fitting in an event such as this when match after match ends on a crescendo. Three of the four morning matches were settled on the 18th green. The excitement centred first on the sight of Mickelson missing a six-footer that would have halved the top match. This was followed by Faldo failing to hole from ten feet for a birdie that would have won Europe the hole and halved the match. And then Parnevik hit another crisp approach, holed from nine feet for a second successive birdie to ensure Europe's second point of the morning.

RYDER CUP '97

EUROPE: US:

SKY SPORTS 1: Today: Live coverage 7am to 6pm. Tomorrow: Live coverage 10am to 6pm. Today and tomorrow: Highlights 7pm to 9pm and 12.30am to 2.30am.

BBC2: Today and tomorrow: Highlights 9pm to 10pm.

RADIO 5 LIVE: Today: 8.30am to 7pm. Tomorrow: 11am to 7pm.

Tiger by the tail 34
Awesome foursomes 34
Ideal couple 34
Rob Hughes 34, 35

MIKE BLAKE

Parnevik salutes the putt that gave Europe a share of the four-balls yesterday at Valderrama

Blurring the image of a charmless man of steel

This week at Valderrama, Nick Faldo wondered aloud how the course would look with 30,000 people on it. "There were only 4,000 out there today," he said. "Was it 4,000?" "More like 8,000," someone volunteered. Faldo put his hands behind his head and laughed. "Well, 4,000 went round with *my* match."

At that moment of pure typical bumptiousness, I realised why Faldo continues to inspire such ambivalence after 21 years in the game. You can't love this man, because he's charmless. But at the same time, he's a hero. Faldo's admirable sporting qualities include toughness and pluck and fantastic talent. He has won three Open Championships and three Masters, and this is his eleventh Ryder Cup. Not surprising that you'd rather be one of his 4,000 than anybody else's.

Around Ryder Cup followers, of course, you only have to say the words "one down and two to play," and people go all misty-eyed, because at the last match, in 1995, such was the singles position from which Faldo recovered to birdie the 18th, beat Curtis Strange, turn the match and earn the undying love of Severiano Ballesteros. Faldo got up and down from 90 yards and it was fab.

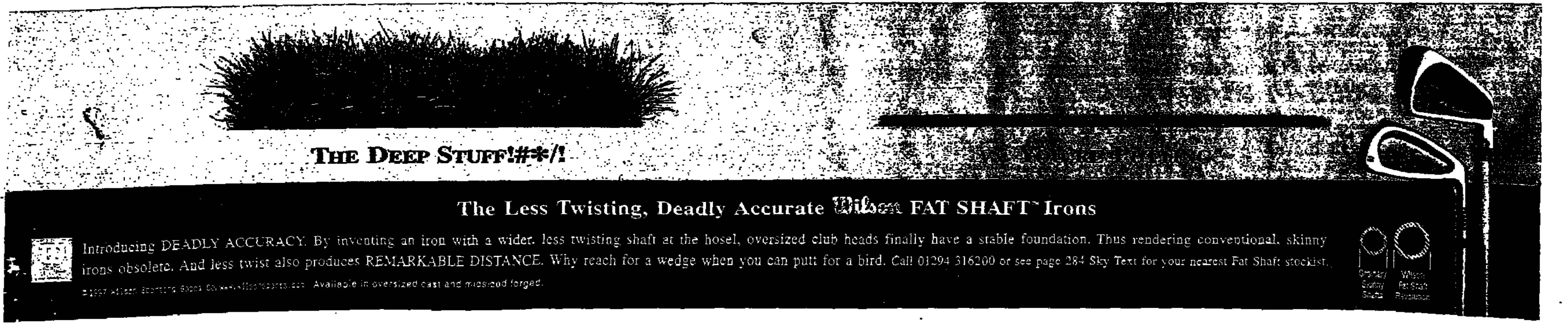
But if "one down and two to play" paints an acceptable picture of the man, the words "midlife crisis" get a less positive response, because it sounds judgmental. But why is a midlife crisis a disgrace? It happens to most people — sometimes it's even a good thing — and, anyway, Faldo has all the symptoms. In the past two years he has left his wife, turned 40 and chosen to live in the United States with a youthful girlfriend who has a silly made-up name beginning with B and who looks like Miss America. Did you know that when a man leaves his wife, in 75 per cent of cases it's for a woman with longer hair?

That all this upheaval is reflected in Faldo's golf is understandable. Form in this sport is so precarious that the Chaos Theory might have been built on it: a butterfly beats its wings in the Southern Ocean and Tiger Woods misses a putt at Valderrama. Faldo's concentration is legendary, yet his tendency at the Open this year to consider each shot as if silently reciting the Lord's Prayer (and then throwing in *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam*) must betray something of his state of mind.

Nevertheless, Faldo strikes a glamorous figure. Being built for athletics and 6ft 11in (or is it 7ft 2in?) is hardly a disadvantage. Between the clubhouse and the 1st tee, he strides at breathtaking speed through the adoring fans, randomly snatching proferred pens and baseball caps and signing them. If the fan wants his hat and pen back, he must canter beyond the bystanders, keeping pace. Faldo has a large face and looks like Harrison Ford. Moreover, when dressed in the navy blouson of the Europe Ryder Cup team, he looks like Harrison Ford in a really good cop movie.

No one knows yet who will be the hero of this Ryder Cup, but if it comes down to mental resilience, midlife crisis or not, Faldo is unlikely to let his team down. I wish he'd halved his first match yesterday with an heroic putt, but I'm sure he wishes it more. Tom Lehman says you can tell from Faldo's body language that he believes he's the only player on the course — but at the Ryder Cup it's different. He just knows he's the most important player on the course.

LYNNE TRUSS



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Woods forces Montgomerie to cut up rough

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN AT VALDERRAMA

TIGER WOODS uncoiled with a languid grace that disguised the power generated by his swing. He looked into the distance, saw his drive describe a gentle arc into the heart of the 5th fairway and laughed. It seemed ungracious to inquire whether he was being intimidated by Colin Montgomerie.

Europe's leading player, next on to the elevated tee, carved his drive into deep rough. His eyes bulged, as if he had swallowed a lazy, late-summer wasp, and he kicked out at fallen leaves from the cork trees that framed the nearby waterfall. It seemed indelicate to ask his opinion of Tiger's temperament.

Woods was enjoying his Ryder Cup debut hugely. He had just made his first birdie, to give himself and Mark O'Meara a lead that they never lost. The only birdie Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer made in their four-ball match yesterday was conceded to them on the 16th green, when a 30-foot putt by O'Meara guaranteed the Americans a 3 and 2 victory.

Inevitably, a television interviewer immediately cornered Woods and brought up Montgomerie's credentials as a cheerleader. Was the win a direct response to the Scot's strictures about the suitability of his game to Valderrama's verdant acres? Tiger took his lead from his partner, who was on the other side of the camera, shaking his head with theatrical intensity.

"No," Woods said, firmly, with a forbidding glare. "We just showed up and played our own game. We hit some loose shots but got away with them because we made some key birdies. It was just a case of grinding it out." O'Meara beamed, like the surrogate father he has quickly become.

Montgomerie was not available for comment. He commandeered a buggy to take him directly to the practice ground, where his wife delivered a hasty sandwich as he prepared for the afternoon rematch in the foursomes. Since he had spent more time in the trees than Valderrama's resident nature consultant, the self-imposed punishment was entirely logical.

Woods, meanwhile, had acquired a bodyguard, who escorted him through the crowds to the United States team-room. It was a stark reminder of the flip side of fame. He will never have the luxury of being judged solely by the simple values of sport. He is a symbol of cultural diversity, a commodity.

At times yesterday, he had he demeanour of a child released on a long-awaited school trip. When O' Meara hit a perfect eight-iron close to the flag at the 5th, Woods held his hand as they walked down the fairway. They live close to each other, in Orlando, Florida, and regularly travel together on the USPGA Tour.

"We asked to play with each other," O'Meara said. "We just get on well. He's a good kid, a good friend, and I have tremendous respect for his game. He has an unbelievable talent and realises he is going to be around for a long time. He's been telling me how much this means to him for the last year."

There is an endearing innocence to some aspects of his behaviour. He gives strangers the courtesy of addressing them as "mister" when introduced and was suitably respectful when former President Bush announced himself on the practice ground. "We're sure gonna have some fun today," the politician burbled. "Yessir," came the reply.

But the moment Bush left, to renew acquaintances with the Commander of the Sixth Fleet, Woods retreated into himself. He conspicuously failed to join in the high-five good luck rituals of his colleagues before play began, and, under pressure, his language became obscene.

The match was good-natured — Montgomerie chatted idly to O'Meara about airline schedules on the first tee — but Woods only registered Langer's presence on the 16th fairway, when it was almost over. His most colourful outburst, after he had put a nine-iron out of bounds at the back of the 13th green, was greeted by a stunned silence.

The galleries generally chose to utter such inanities as "Go on Tiger. Chew 'em up and spit 'em out." By the time Montgomerie got around to eating his sandwich, on the 9th fairway during the afternoon round, the European pair had clearly digested the uncomfortable lessons of the morning.

Woods was playing poorly and he and O'Meara were three down at the turn, on route to a 5 and 3 defeat. His character had changed, along with the momentum of the match. Again he looked a callow, sullen, youth.

"I've grown up a lot in the last 12 months," Woods said. "This has been the longest year ever, man. I've had to change as a person, because I've had to deal with so many things that a 21-year-old doesn't normally have to deal with. That's all part of the challenge of accepting I'm a somebody out here."

Life's little lessons can be harsh. Had Woods's parents been around when the gloom descended on Valderrama yesterday evening, they might have reminded him of a couple of homilies. Pride invariably precedes a fall, and he who laughs last, like Montgomerie, tends to laugh longest.

RYDER CUP '97

CUP DETAILS

TODAY

Morning

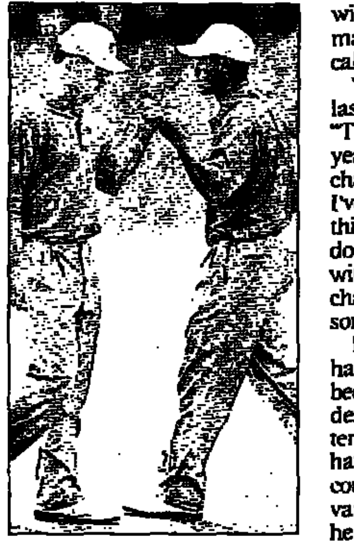
Foursomes: To complete: N Faldo and L Westwood (2 up) v J Leonard and J Maggert (after 15 holes); J Parnevik and I Garrido v T Lehman and P Mickelson (level after 12)

4 four-balls

Afternoon — 4 foursomes

TOMORROW

Morning — 12 singles



Woods and O'Meara toast victory on the 10th

Captains struggle in face of leading questions

ROB HUGHES

Severiano Ballesteros is no longer the only one losing sleep over this Ryder Cup. The ferocity of the storm that blew in from Africa yesterday, lashing the coastline below Valderrama and dislocating everyone's expectations, may have seemed made for the Europe captain, who, dicing with his team strategy and his pairings as he once diced with the elements of his own game, came up against the beacon of calm that is his opposite number, Tom Kite.

For hours their attempts to take a decisive lead for Europe or the United States were tossed in a tempest of a different kind: what can captains really do when they are in the hands of a dozen other men, when it is the talents, the temperaments and the stamina when exposed to fierce competition that distinguishes individuals under duress?

From the very beginning the different leadership styles were evident. Ballesteros, discharging restless energy, stalked the 40 yards between the practice green and the 1st tee, fidgeting, swotting mercilessly at an insect that dared to settle on the nape of his neck, talking, cajoling, touching and settling himself into the role of compulsive media star.

You can take the club out of such a golfer's hands, but you cannot rub away the charisma, the hypnotic attraction between man and the camera that, in this case, was transmitting his efforts to 700 million viewers worldwide.

They were to see snatched moments of Ballesteros's effervescence, the manner in which he finds it impossible to leave alone the momentum of his team. Rarer would have been the camera shots of Kite, for he was a captain content, a smaller man in the physical sense and a far less obtrusive figure who sought the background rather than the limelight.

At the height of this fascinating temperamental *pas de deux* was an astonishing altercation between Ballesteros and Jesper Parnevik on the 12th green. Parnevik was one of the Spanish captain's wild cards, his own selections: but did he trust him entirely? From a distance of a few yards it seemed not, as Ballesteros hectored the Swede, who subsequently two-putted the hole. Intensity poured forth from the captain's mouth, fire ignited in the Swede's eyes: and yet, by the end of the four-ball, there was gratitude between them.

At the 17th, the hole redesigned by Ballesteros himself, Parnevik received a firm handshake, a squeeze on the biceps, for his effort. And at Casa Club, the 18th, Parnevik, who played with his fellow Swede, Per-Ulrik Johansson, sank a putt of 18 feet to win the contest against the experienced Americans, Tom Lehman and Jim Furyk.

Afterwards, Parnevik spoke of the men who actually competed, and deliberately not, one suspects, of his non-playing captain. He admitted that Lehman, holing a 60-yard pitch at the 15th and again putting the pressure on at the 18th, had fired his own competitive urge. He spoke of his partner, Johansson, knowing him so well that they could pull each other back from despair.

Ballesteros, though he surprisingly replaced Johansson with Ignacio Garrido, thereby increasing the Latin tempo in the late afternoon foursomes, spoke of the great comeback of the Swedes, which he admired as much as he did the comeback of Costantino Rocca and José Maria Olazábal. "It is a pity," Ballesteros said with a chilling directness, "that Colin [Montgomerie] and Bernhard [Langer] were not able to catch the rhythm. We are as we started."

He was hardly that. By 5 o'clock in the afternoon, with hours still to go, Ballesteros had grown a heavy stubble, which itself had rivers of sweat and, together with the black hair matted on to his scalp, showed how oppressive the weather, as much as everything else, remained. Kite, on the other hand, rarely looked unruffled: a little peeved when shots were dropped or leads were surren-

Continued on facing page

'Kite sought background rather than limelight'

GILL ALLEN

On the air: Kite, the United States captain, stays in touch with developments around the Valderrama course

RESULTS FROM VALDERRAMA

EUROPE 3
UNITED STATES 3

Europe names first

Four-balls

J M Olazabal and C Rocca bt D Love and P Mickelson 1 hole
C Montgomerie and B Langer lost to T Woods and M O'Meara 3 and 2
N Faldo and L Westwood lost to F Couples and B Faxon 1 hole
J Parnevik and P-U Johansson bt T Lehman and J Furyk 1 hole
RESULT: Europe 2 United States 2

Foursomes

Langer and Montgomerie bt Woods and O'Meara 5 and 3
Olazabal and Rocca lost to S Hoch and L Janzen 1 hole
Faldo and Westwood 2 up on J Leonard and J Maggert (after 15 holes)
Parnevik and Garrido level with Lehman and Mickelson (after 12)
RESULT: Europe 1 United States 1 (with two games to finish because of bad light yesterday evening)

LATEST ODDS: Europe 6-4, United States 4-7, Tie 10-1 (William Hill)

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12/1	Safio	25/1	Just Nick
12/1	Young Precedent	25/1	Volley
14/1	Crumpton Hill	33/1	Omaha City
14/1	Neuwest	33/1	Return Of Amin
14/1	Philistar	33/1	Speedball
16/1	Kayvee	50/1	Chickawicka
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Trusting partner to be awesome at foursomes

Europe should have an advantage over the United States in foursomes, says **Mel Webb**, but history shows otherwise

Americans, by and large, do not think much of foursomes golf. "Scotch foursomes" they call it, condescendingly and with typically carefree disregard for English usage.

They think that playing only every other shot is an effete pastime, a game for old men, perfectly all right for the limeys but not at all the sort of activity that an all-American boy should be caught pursuing in daylight or without his parents' permission.

Consequently, a self-perpetuating myth has evolved that because Americans are not fond of this form of the game, they are no good at it in competitions such as the Ryder Cup. Wrong. They may regard it with slight contempt and in an ideal world they might rarely subject themselves to it, but they can play it, all right.

On the other hand, the Americans are eager to embrace the concept of four-ball golf.

It's a man's game, this. You play your own ball from 1st tee to 18th green in an exercise in the assumption of personal responsibility, but it is also incumbent on you to subsume yourself in the interests of the team, because you have a buddy alongside you who is doing the same thing.

Sometimes he might play a hole better than you and his score will be the one that counts. But, hey, that's OK; we're a team here: we're all pulling for Uncle Sam: it's the American way.

The extension of that theory, therefore, is that the United States should be natural four-ball players who should, by all that is logical, prosper at it.

Wrong again. Since 1979, but not including this match, Europe and the United States have won five foursomes each, with six halved. Europe lead their opponents 9-6 in four-balls, with three halved. For once, statistics come down on the white knight side of lies and damned lies.

The tactics and even the job requirements of the two forms of the game are similar, but with subtle differences. The ideal four-ball combination is a synergy between paso doble and foxtrot, flashy Ferrari and solid Volvo, haute couture and ready-to-wear serge.

The Latin-American prancer in the bright red sports car and the Giorgio Armani attire will be the aggressive one, the one who will take on the angle of a dog-leg, the one who will fire his second shot at the green at a par-five. He is Jesper Parnevik, Costantino Rocca, Tiger Woods, Fred Couples.

His partner, the sedate hoofer driving the family estate car while garbed in clothes from Marks and Sparks, will be Joe Steady, hitting the fairway, hitting the green, two putts for par. He is Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Tom Lehman, Mark O'Meara.

Foursomes are different in as much as inter-personal relationships form a vital part of the pairing. Rocca and José Mará Olazábal like each other, trust each other, have games that dovetail together. O'Meara is like a surrogate father to Woods on the course. You have to be confident in your partner, know how to work together closer than you will ever have to in four-balls.

You also will need to calculate when to go for the green, who is to take the drive on what holes, who is the better putter.

All these things, and more, enter into the psychology of foursomes pairs. Above all, you must remember the most important foursomes component of all: never, ever, say "sorry".

PGA douses rumours about Open switch

FROM MEL WEBB

IT IS extraordinary how rumours can be ignited, spread with the rapidity of a bushfire and then be doused with equal speed. Three months ago it was suggested that the Open Championship next year might be moved from Royal Birkdale, and yesterday the flames were fanned again at Valderrama with talk that The Belfry was about to lose the right to stage the 2001 Ryder Cup and would be replaced by Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Contained within the Birkdale saga were three mini-rumours: first, that the Birkdale greens, much criticised in the past, had no chance of being good enough for the club to stage an Open; second, that Royal Lytham and St Anne's had been put on stand-by; and third, that at Royal St George's, no tee-time bookings were being accepted for Open Championship week. Wrong, all three of them.

It was not long before The Belfry situation was clarified, either. Sandy Jones, the executive director of the PGA, which has its headquarters at The Belfry and has the right to choose the 2001 venue, moved quickly to set the record straight.

"I'm mystified where this has come from," he said. "Moving the match away from The Belfry has never been an issue and never will be.

"It is unfair to both clubs that such suggestions should be made at this time." Jones has had informal discussions with the owner of Loch Lomond, Lyle Anderson, who is hoping the club will be considered as the venue for the match in 2009, but no formal application has yet been received.

Latin soulmates make ideal pair

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

WHILE Severiano Ballesteros is on the sidelines, sort of, at Valderrama, José Maria Olazábal has found another soulmate to partner in the Ryder Cup. The dark, intense Spaniard from the Basque country and Costantino Rocca, the burly Italian from Bergamo, looked made for each other yesterday.

Ballesteros sent them over the top twice to rally the troops. In the four-balls they recovered from two down with six to play to beat Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson on the last green, spoiling Mickelson's 100 per cent Ryder Cup record with a burst of three birdies and an exhilarating eagle in the space of five holes. Then, after a quick sandwich, they set off in the foursomes, where they just lost a tight, untidy tussle with Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen. The Americans won with a birdie three at the last where Hoch holed from five feet.

Olazábal and Rocca are very good friends, which helps but is not vital for a successful pairing. They tend to eat dinner together if Rocca's family is not at a tournament with him and they understand each other perfectly, using a combination of Spanish and Italian with some English mixed in.

Temperamentally they are suited, for, despite the sultry Latin looks, they have no need for histrionics on the course. Against Hoch and Janzen, they lost the first two holes, but they were all square again by the 6th and went one up when they won the 7th with a birdie three. The crowd in the stands behind the green chanted "Chema, Chema", the diminutive for José Marla, when Olazábal hit a great second shot to three feet. Rocca received his own chant when he rolled the putt home nonchalantly, but there were no high-fives, just the ball given to his partner in a businesslike manner.

The Italian has his own band of fans — not all of them Italian — some of them wearing T-shirts and visors bearing the legend "Rocky Rocca". He avoided eye contact, to keep his concentration. The crowd was noisy and enthusiastic — but so silent during shots that often only the whistling of the wind and the slight buzz of thousands of headphones tuned in to Radio 5 Live's coverage could be heard. It was a real melting-pot. There were Spaniards, Britons, Irish, French, Italian, German, Swedes, Danes and masses of Americans.

The moment of the day, when all the fans, whatever their allegiance, rose as one, arms hauled skywards by some invisible force, was Olazábal's eagle two at the 14th.

He hit a wedge from 133 yards to the elevated green, the ball, unseen by him, pitched three feet short of the hole, then disappeared. The pandemonium was universal and the Europeans were back in the match, all square.

Rocca, who had started the revival with a birdie at the 13th, kept it going by holing a good putt for a half in three at the 15th and put his side one up, for good, with a birdie three at the next.

Viva los dos amigos.

Olazábal chips in as Rocca lines up a putt

[illegible]

. . . as Ballesteros tries to ignite defiance

Up in the air: Ballesteros follows the flightpath of an approach shot during his often frantic tour of duty

Continued from page 34

dered, more than direct when he questioned Ballesteros man-to-man at the 13th, yet still evading obvious contact with publicity.

'Ballesteros took the role of compulsive media star'

One wondered how long this quiet American mused on the irony that, having meticulously read the weather patterns for 300 consecutive days, he faced a course sodden by a downpour more fierce than all in his experience.

He was operating the American axiom of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Having put together the teams, and more thoughtfully, it seemed, prepared fresh blood — with Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen tackling Olazábal and Rocca in the afternoon, while Justin Leonard and Jeff Maggert opposed Nick Faldo and Lee Westwood — the American captain at least offered the fresher minds and limbs. It was as if Kite, drawing on experience and on forethought, had anticipated the turnaround that put the teams back onto the fairways half-an-hour after walking off the "morning" four-balls.

"I'm tired but happy," Rocca had said in his short lunch break. Tired . . . had his captain not envisaged that this, paticularly with a Latin like himself, might rebound? And speaking of rebounds, there came a moment beyond the imagination of any captain, any controller. It was on the 8th hole that Phil Mickelson, teamed with Davis Love III, over-hit his approach shot. It propelled fearsomely beyond the green, struck a woman on the back of the head, felled her in a gruesome pool of blood, and yet diverted the ball slightly fortuitously 30 feet back in the American's favour.

Mickelson strode swiftly up to apologise as the woman received medical treatment; his caddie handed the woman a golf ball. The woman, who by chance was American, was still laid flat on the ground, still being comforted by attendants, when Love walked through the crowd, knelt down by her side, and presented her with another ball. "Oh, Davis . . ." the thrilled woman said "you signed it!" And, clutching her souvenirs, at last restored to her feet and gently driven away, she had experienced a moment of sportsmanship that transcended the intense competitiveness of the Ryder Cup. The buggy on which she was escorted passed another one, the only blue buggy on the course, driven here and there and everywhere by Ballesteros. The captain likes to get around.

'A team should be able to *sell* its league position. Flog it. Do a little trading'

DANNY BAKER

SO, PLUCKY Barnsley became the first side this season to be definitely relegated. Oh, I know, whey-faced statisticians may argue that it is still mathematically possible for them to beat the drop but the hard truth is that they must win all their remaining league games by forty clear goals and hope Southampton fall into the sea like that guesthouse in Cornwall.

The point being: is it worth going up any more? I don't think so. Not to the premier league, anyway. The premier league is a grisly unwelcoming, class-riddled academy where clear-eyed, fresh-faced ambitious little teams are made to fag thanklessly for the Head Boys.

"I say, look here, Barnsley you sticky-faced little oiks, if you and smelly old Darbyshire wish to hang around in this dorm, you bloody well better not cause any waves, and hand us three points every time you pass us on the stairs understand? You know how much we love roasting you snivelling little pups and never ruddy forget it. OK? Good. Oh, by the way, we're sending you down."

That's exactly what it feels like when, through no fault of your own, you suddenly find yourself in the top league. I know — Millwall were in the old first division for a while. Three till four one Wednesday afternoon I think it was. Yes of course, we topped the table for a while. All new teams are allowed to top the table for a while — it's simply an empty piece of FA PR.

But come October, Gulliver wakes up on the beach and wonders what the little guys are doing tickling his nose. And so it begins. Great hulking TV teams coming around your place week after week, thumping the life out of you. Seven months of embarrassed smiles permanently fixed while teams like Sheffield Wednesday and Tottenham swank about the pitch like they're *used* to being in this much control. When we played Aston Villa it was announced at half-time that, as a sporting gesture, from now on Villa could only score with volleys and headers. It is just about that time you seriously ask: was it worth going up?

Wasn't the genuine mystery of an away game at Notts County infinitely preferable to simply being some punch-drunk bunch of rubes at a bad table in soccer's Planet Hollywood? It is not merely a matter of knowing one's place. It is more the solid warmth of being among friends. Stoke supporters may not actually like us — possibly still sulking from the infamous razor-blades-in-hurled-potatoes thing back in the early 70s — but they sure as hell have never patronised us. They regard our meeting as a genuine, bona fide, fixture. But when Barnsley run out at Old Trafford they will be indulged, applauded, given encouragement and generally made to feel like some winner of a competition in *Smash Hits* who have seen their dream of being back-stage with Boyzone come true. They will lose the match a thousand-nil and receive a nice hand as they sprint naked back to the coach.

Here is what *must* be allowed to take place with immediate effect. Any team, at any point, should be allowed to *sell* their league position. That's right. Flog your status. Maximise your potential. Sell up. Sell out. If football is a business then let's do a little trading. Look at it this way: you busted your Barnsley chops last year — for what? To bring big names to town? You're a football club, not Harvey Goldsmith. Come on, be real. You're a lower league side who lucked out so let's parlay this into something lasting. All you've got to do is stick together a couple of results — a win at Palace, a draw at Coventry — then sit in Nosebleed City (seventeenth) and simply pick up the phone to Molineux or Maine Road and tell them that, sweet as the air around here is, you are missing the old neighbourhood — wanna swap? £15-20 mill sounds about fair. And here's the beauty part. City will probably rise to the occasion. They will make a better fist of it than you and probably, before long, will be looking at the Evertons and West Hams in their rearview mirror (pedigree can only bloom into true class when not shackled by shame and bust morale).

Plus you really aren't a bad side. So how tough is it going to be knocking over Peterborough and Norwich again? Result — you don't lose another match, the fans can continue to chant "Champions!", and slap me, you wind up being able to repeat the whole exhilarating gag next year.

I can't see a downside to this entire venture. It's bold, it's modern and it's totally honest. The only bellyache I've encountered is from idealistic maniacs who think if this scheme were accepted, then the premier league would simply become a playground for the rich and famous.

As opposed to what we have now, you mean?

Tale of the tape

I HAVE been sent an audio tape of Steve Archibald falling downstairs. It is about eight seconds long and undoubtedly someone falling downstairs — but Steve Archibald? I don't know. The faller never cries out so we don't even have a Scottish accent to go on. The accompanying letter — signed The Big K — insists the tumble took place "sometime in 1984". There is no suggestion that Steve was intoxicated or suffered injuries from the fall. When I played the tape on the radio last week, Steve Archibald's solicitors made no move. This could be football's own "Roswell Incident".

Fast thinking

I'M GOING to have to start charging for advice on how to pep up sports. Most of my friends are bemoaning the trend in Formula One that, if I follow them correctly, means each and every grand prix has become a hopeless, pointless high-speed procession that once begun cannot be altered and simply must be played out to its predictable conclusion.

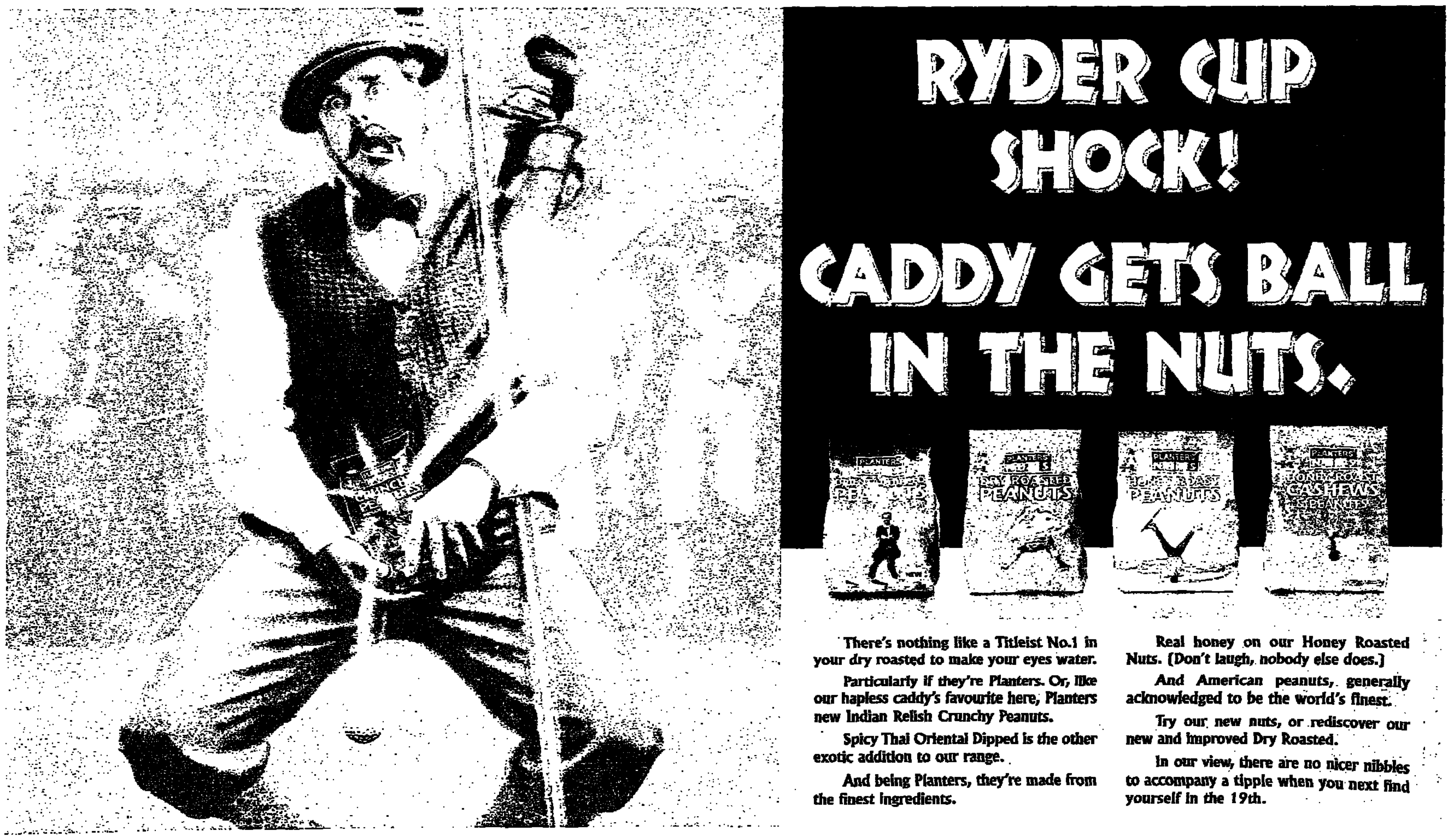
Well, leaving aside a rather clever joke at the expense of the Royal Variety Show here, I think I have the answer to bring about the thrill of the chase.

Four words: last lap on foot.

Keggy Keegle's cottage industry

IN ONE of my favourite pieces of sports commentating, the superb Brian Moore wondered aloud what "this next 45 minutes" held for "Keggy Keegle . . . I'm sorry, Kevin Keegle . . ." and I've not referred to the Great Tortured Man by anything else since. After far too long an absence — a week and a half — Keggy is back in the game, his keen Keegle eye already on Europe. He will, of course, do it, and nobody should be in any way surprised at his choice of club. Fulham have long been a barmy outfit with a tradition of Stage-Door-Johnnyism going back from Tommy Trinder through George Best and Rodney Marsh, the platonic love of Jimmy Hill and right up to Keggy himself. It comes from being across the road to Chelsea, the Kings of Showbiz Football. So, periodically they advertise very large indeed and after an extended Summer Season at the pier's end . . . they go back to being Not Chelsea once more. This is as it should be. But what of the Kegmeister? As the poet wrote "How long, O breath, how long . . ."?

Well, the universe is not without its cosmic jokes. I hear the news of the Kegman's return but moments after a news item about the opening night of *Wilde*, starring Stephen Fry. Empires are turned on such fateful omens . . .



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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Cup fever shifts to downtown Sudbury

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

NOT everything that the FA Cup touches turns to gold. Sudbury Town suffered such a letdown from their run last season that they ended by resigning from the Dr Martens League. They dropped into the Jewson Eastern Counties League, taking the place of their own reserve team — now disbanded — alongside Sudbury Wanderers, their local rivals.

"The reasons were financial," David Webb, the secretary, said after the club went through the throes of forming a new board and shedding the majority of its contracted players. Even though Sudbury beat Brighton in a first-round replay and then lost to Brentford in a "home" match switched to Colchester United's ground, the pickings were not great.

"There wasn't as big a gate at Layer Road as we expected," Webb said, "and the stewards, policing and the rest cost us a lot of money." Add the increasing number of clubs from the West Country in the Dr Martens League southern division, and inadequate attendances in a small market town, and the decision to end a seven-year spell in the league was easily taken.

Richie Powling, the manager, and the remaining contracted players from last season are now focused on the biggest challenge of their season, an away match against Wroxham, the champions, tomorrow.

Down the road, meanwhile, Sudbury Wanderers are gripped by a mild dose of the Cup fever that swept the town as they prepare for a home tie in the second qualifying round against Bromsgrove Rovers. Wanderers have already taken the scalp of one former Conference club, beating Stafford Rangers 3-0 at Brundon Lane.

The irony of Town's plight is that their exploits last season have earned them exemption to the fourth qualifying round. "You could call it a golden handshake," Webb said.

Seamier side of the game

The Forest v Anderlecht affair fits a sorry pattern in European football

Left: Guruceta Muro, the referee bribed by Anderlecht in 1984 to allow them to beat Nottingham Forest in the Uefa Cup semi-final, above. Anderlecht may escape suspension

BRIAN GLANVILLE

It was at the San Siro in May 1965 that Tommy Smith literally kicked the referee off the field. Kicked him, as he still recounts, all the way back to the dressing-room. Not that it was much consolation. Two decisions by Ortiz de Nendibil, the Spanish referee — a goal scored by Internazionale from an indirect free kick, another when Peiro kicked the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands — had enabled Inter to win the second leg of a European Cup semi-final 3-0 after losing 3-1 at Anfield.

They had won in much the same way in the equivalent semi-final the previous year when Luis Suárez kicked Dortmund's right half and put him off the field, reducing the Germans to ten men. The Yugoslav referee did nothing about it.

In the 1966 semi-final, however, a brave Hungarian referee, Gyorgy Vadas, resisted the blandishments of Angelo Moratti, the Inter president. Real Madrid gained a draw to reach the final — and Vadas never got another international game.

Those of us who spent years beating our heads against a wall, publicising such tales of corruption to no avail, are hardly surprised by the news that the papers relating to the Anderlecht v Nottingham Forest Uefa Cup semi-final in 1984 "disappeared" after reaching the Uefa offices five years ago.

Anderlecht are known now to have bribed the Spanish referee of that game, Guruceta Muro, who was subsequently killed in a car crash. Muro refused Forest a perfectly good goal headed by Paul Hart, and gave a non-existent penalty against them. Uefa's statute of limitations has a ten-year span and although Uefa have now tried to suspend Anderlecht from their tournaments for a year, they may not be able to make it stick.

To be fair, Uefa, under the reign of Lennart Johansson, have been more willing to act than under previous leaders.

A couple of seasons ago, indeed, they acted with what seemed almost indecent haste when Dynamo Kiev were accused of offering fur coats to the Spanish referee, Lopez Nieto.

In no time at all, Kiev, who cut little international ice, were suitably punished. Their appeal was heard and dismissed in the blink of an eye; though later their suspension was reduced.

Kiev may or may not have been guilty, though their complaints that they had been castigated because they did not matter made *some sense.*

No such *punishment,* indeed none at all, visited Juventus when, in a *Sunday Times* investigation, myself and a colleague showed beyond doubt that the Hungarian fixer, Dezso Solti, who had previously worked for Inter, had gone to Lisbon to offer money to the Portuguese referee, Lobo, to bend the 1973 return European Cup semi-final between Derby County and Juventus.

Lobo reported the attempt. Juventus seemed bang to rights, but a farcical Uefa disciplinary committee meeting in Zurich failed to confront Solti with Lobo, and was followed almost at once by a letter of thanks and exoneration to Juventus from Hans Bangerter, the Uefa secretary.

At the centre of such activities at Inter, and then Juventus, was the celebrated wheeler-dealer, Italo Allodi.

When an Italian newspaper once asked him whether he was hurt by my attack, he replied he was, especially because, when I was ill in Florence, he was among those who had sent money to enable me to stay there. That was in 1954 and I did not stay in Florence, but went home for an operation on my back.

I met Allodi for the first time in a Belgrade hotel, where he was gambling, in 1973. Four years later, at *the Hotel Excelsior in Rome,* a few hours before Liverpool won the European Cup final, he approached me, saying: "We've never met, but *my name is Italo Allodi."*

When taxed with his inventions, he replied in the press that he had sent money through an old friend of mine, an Italian youth coach, who by that time was presumed dead.

Uefa's indulgence of Juve in 1973 and after — our revelations brought no action and Solti was deemed to be acting alone — provided corrupt clubs with a kind of cheat's charter.

In 1983, Inter were at it again. Groningen, of Holland, beat them in a first-leg Uefa Cup match after which the manager, Han Berger, was approached by a Dutch intermediary, the agent Apollonius Konijnenberg. He, according to Berger, offered him £55,000 to see Groningen lose the return.

In the event, Inter won easily in Bari, where they had to play their home game, but a Uefa inquiry ensued in which Groningen's president, De Vires, said he himself had been approached in Bari. Berger said that Inter had offered to pay for a new grandstand while he could have the managership of Pisa or Verona.

One of Konijnenberg's most damning conversations with Berger had been overheard by a witness. But in the event, the committee decided there was no proof that Konijnenberg and Inter were connected.

Tomorrow, if Torino do not beat Genoa in a Serie B game in Turin, Graeme Souness is in danger of losing his job as the Torino manager. Spartaco Landini, the Genoa general manager, is in no danger at all.

The Italy right back when they lost to North Korea in Middlesbrough in the 1966 World Cup, Landini was involved in an *opera buffa* of a scam 20 years later. Roma had lost to Dundee United away in the first leg of yet another European cup semi-final. Landini and Giampaolo Cominato, a football administrator, approached the Roma president, Dino Viola, and said that if he gave them £50,000, they could fix the French referee, Michel Vautrot.

The money was handed over but the two never went near the blameless Vautrot. However, when the referee was taken out to dinner by Roma directors, he received a mysterious phone call, actually from Cominato, saying: "Paolo wishes you good luck" — a pre-arranged message.

Dino Viola, however, assumed this was an Italian referee called Paolo Bergamo, to whom in time he blurted out the tale. Bergamo reported it, but under the Italian Federation's statute of limitations, it was too late to proceed. Landini and Cominato were not prosecuted. Roma escaped merely with a fine by Uefa.

Small wonder Anderlecht thought they could get away with it. Perhaps they have.

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When losing is no joke

ALLSPORT

Pointing the finger: For a time, Wilson refrained from public criticism of his players. Now he can hold back no longer

The supporters are beginning to get restless, **Mark Hodkinson** reports

LIFE AT THE TOP

Seven weeks ago, Barnsley was a town on helium. The football club had secured promotion to the FA Carling Premiership and people sung their joy and eternal loyalty, whether to a television camera, down at the pub or to the person behind them in the queue for a season ticket.

Since then, the team has lost six matches, conceded 21 goals and finds itself in the relegation zone for the first time this season. There are, of course, thousands who remain unflinchingly loyal, but the trickle of discontent has started. "It was pretty dire," John Murphy of Burton Grange, Barnsley, wrote. "We couldn't pass; we didn't know what to do when we had the ball." It gets worse. "Barnsley were a pathetic embarrassment, I felt myself cringing in my seat. What is going on at Oakwell?" Ellie Hambleton, of Darfield, asked.

These comments were among a batch of letters sent to the *Barnsley Chronicle* after the team's 3-0 home defeat against Aston Villa two weeks ago. At this match, a significant number left ten minutes before the final whistle. Some of these would have been the same people who, back in May, queued for hours to buy a season ticket to ensure that they did not miss out on Barnsley's historic season. Presumably, the air of dissatisfaction will have been honed by two further heavy defeats since.

Much was made of the response to Barnsley's 6-0 drubbing by Chelsea a month ago. They sang when they were hurting, boasting that they were to win 6-5 when they were five goals behind. The reaction was mere bravado, but it was seen, erroneously, as a barometer of loyalty. When your team is losing so heavily, especially at home, a game takes on a surreal quality. It becomes comical in the same way it does when your luggage flies to New Delhi while you land in Rome *and* the rep announces that there is a meningitis scare at your intended hotel.

It is not, however, a matter of hilarity when your team loses to a struggling Villa side, especially if they have scored three times from eight shots and your team has not scored from 13 attempts. These cruel and frustrating defeats are borne reluctantly by the supporter, but with valour; anything else is cowardly.

Keith Lodge, the sports editor who has opened the letters of complaint at the *Chronicle,* is a seasoned hack, not prone to indignation or shouting. He thinks before he speaks. His response to the grumbling and the early-leavers amounts, then, to a noteworthy reprimand. "For supporters to dish out such harsh criticism on the management so soon is every bit as pathetic as the embarrassment felt by the lady who sent us a letter describing how she cringed in her seat," he said.

The griping might be premature but it is indicative of a tangible mood-swing within *the town. This is mirrored* by a degree of change within the club. The side that clinched promotion appears to be disintegrating: in recent games more than half the players used have been signed since the summer. Paul Wilkinson, the striker who formed a 27-goal partnership last season with John Hendrie, has left to join Millwall. Clint Marcelle has been linked with the Spanish club, Seville, and several predatory scouts have noted Hendrie's inability to hold down a first-team place.

Another difference has been Danny Wilson's willingness publicly to criticise his team, notably his defenders. He had previously kept his censure within the dressing-room. This week he called on them in several interviews to "take on responsibility" and improve their all-round play.

A team in flux, impatient supporters, a manager lambasting his players: Barnsley would seem to be a club bleeding hope and dreams. Everyone knows, though, that a couple of wins, preferably in succession, will have them dancing in the streets once more, such is the fickle nature of the football supporter.

هكذا من الانجليز

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Karlheinz Riedle's professionalism has earned instant respect from team-mates and management at Liverpool

MIKE WILKINSON

Riedle has plainly not come to England in search of easy money — on and off the field he has impressed his new employers at Anfield. "He is the best professional I've ever worked with," Evans, the Liverpool manager, said

High-duty import

OLIVER HOLT

The Liverpool players are not an easy bunch to impress. There is an irreverent, impish streak running through the younger ones, in particular, an individuality, an iconoclastic attitude that can offend those who are used to the studied blandness of men such as Alan Shearer. They do not give their respect easily, but they have given it to Karlheinz Riedle.

He went with them to Chester races earlier this week on a club day out. Sometimes, when a group of players go out for a meal locally, he goes as well. He joins in; that is part of the reason why they like him, part of the reason they never really warmed to the more aloof Stan Collymore. With Riedle, though, there is another reason, too.

"There was instant respect for Karl among the rest of the players as soon as he arrived here," Steve McManaman said. "He has won everything there is to win in the game but the point is that we are not talking about something he did five or ten years ago, something way back in time.

"When he came to Liverpool, he had just scored two goals against Juventus, the best club side in the world, to win the European Cup for Borussia Dortmund. Three months later and there he was playing for us at Wimbledon. The respect for him here is second to none because of what he has achieved in his career."

It does not end there, either. Riedle has enough respect to riddle Linford Christie with envy. "He is the best professional I have ever worked with," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said after the 3-0 victory over Aston Villa on Monday. And Evans has worked with a few good professionals in his time.

Riedle is a sober character, earnest and amicable, courteous to a fault, a model footballer indeed. He is fluent in several languages, including English, but until recently he has asked for a translator to be present at interviews lest he be misinterpreted. He does not court controversy or attention. His words exude diplomacy.

His character is less flamboyant than that of Jürgen Klinsmann, the only other high-profile German to have played in the Premiership, but, in a quieter way, he is likely to be just as effective an ambassador for his country's footballing talents.

He has already gained a reputation on Merseyside for being sensible. He shied away from living in Southport, the favoured residence of Liverpool and Everton footballers, because he was worried that the funfair would distract his sons, Alessandro, six, and Dominic, four, from their schoolwork.

"I know my boys," Riedle said. "When you have a playground like this in Southport, they would want to go every day. It might distract them a little bit. It is not too important but I thought it would be better if we moved somewhere else." Next week, he and the boys and his wife, Gaby, are due to move into a house "over the water" on The Wirral.

It is already clear that Evans got one of the best bargains of the summer when he paid Dortmund £1.8 million for the man who scored two classic headers in the 3-1 European Cup final defeat of Juventus in Munich in May.

Even though Riedle's international career appears to have come to an end, nobody could quite believe he was leaving the European champions for Anfield and when his signing was confirmed, the cynics said he just wanted one last payday.

The three goals he has scored already, though, have all been minor classics. The first, after a fine turn had embarrassed a defender, was a delicate chip over Nigel Martyn in the victory at Leeds United, the second a bullet header that Paul Jones could only push into the roof of the net against Southampton at The Dell last Saturday, the third a clinical finish against Villa that hurtled through the legs of Mark Bosnich.

Riedle during his Liverpool debut

More than that, it is obvious that his style of play, his ability to hold the ball up and let others feed off him, his famous prowess in the air, can only complement the quicksilver skills of Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen whenever they play alongside him.

At the moment, the two young players are even threatening to keep him out of the side but Riedle, who celebrated his 32nd birthday last week, is the antithesis of the temperamental foreign import. Speak to him for five minutes and it is clear he is not the sort of man who could play out his career at half-pace, thinking just of the money. When he talks about a duty to the team, he means it.

"It is not my problem about what the manager does when Robbie is fully fit and Michael and I want the other place," Riedle said. "We have so many good players at the club and it is not a concern for me if I have to go on the bench. Of course, when you do not play, you do not feel good, but the important thing is to work for the team.

"When I came here, the manager said he wanted me to play a little bit behind the first forward. I like this position and it is important to create the space and the chances for other people to score. Who scores is not so important to me any more.

"Scoring is nice but I feel the same when I create a goal now. Playing for the team is more important than my own glory now. I knew all about Robbie before I came to Liverpool but I have to admit I was not aware of Michael. I am aware of him now. He is a fantastic young player. I admire both of them.

"People wonder why I left Dortmund but we were at the point where we had won two domestic championships in succession in Germany and then the European Cup as well and it was the right time for me to change. Last year was probably the happiest year of my career but when you have won a lot of things with one team, sometimes it is better to have another challenge so you can create new things."

Riedle began his career with the Bundesliga club, Augsburg, before he moved on to Blau-Weiss Berlin, Werder Bremen and then Lazio, where he was a contemporary of Paul Gascoigne and played in attack with Thomas Doll. He scored 17 goals in 45 internationals for Germany and was part of the squad that won the 1990 World Cup in Italy. When he left Lazio, he joined Dortmund.

He had long cherished an ambition to play in the Premiership with one of the leading clubs, though, and when the opportunity to play for Liverpool arose, he jumped at it. Off the field, he is already revelling in the quieter life that he is allowed to lead.

"It was impossible to live like a normal person in Italy or in Germany," he said. "Since I have been living here, I have even been able to go shopping to the superstore with my wife. That is the first time I have been able to do that. The people here are so friendly. They are much more open than anywhere else I have lived.

"People ask why I did not go to London where the restaurants and the theatres are. But I did not come here for restaurants and theatres. I want to play good football at a high level. I think Liverpool will be my last club. After that, maybe I will play for a joke somewhere else but when I leave here, I will be finished with playing football."

Perhaps then he will have time for Southport and its funfair.

Fulham bask in limelight

By Russell Kempson

FULHAM'S training headquarters at the BBC Sports Ground in Motspur Park, deep in suburban Surrey, rarely attracts much attention. Perhaps a few retired householders might peer from their back gardens, as the Fulham players practise, but there is little of significant interest.

Not any more. After the appointment of Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins on Thursday, to lead Fulham into the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership, nothing is as it was at the Nationwide League second division club. Motspur Park was alive yesterday with representatives of the media, all wanting an audience with the saviours of Craven Cottage and long is it likely to continue.

As the players tried to prepare for their game away to Wigan Athletic this afternoon, Simon Morgan, the Fulham captain, admitted that it had been a week of distraction. "To be truthful, it's been a crazy whirl, but we are typical players," he said. "We've closed the dressing-room door and had a good laugh and enjoyed some banter. There is a great opportunity for us here to impress and go forward with the new management. Our future is in our hands."

Keegan, the bizarrely named chief operating officer, will initially assist with coaching as he assesses his players. Wilkins, the manager, will pick the team. "My first impression has been of the enthusiasm shown in training by everyone," Keegan, whose newly inherited side has lost its past four league and cup matches, said.

No such happy times at Huddersfield Town, who are without a league victory this season and languish in last place in the first division. Disenchanted supporters have been calling for the head of Brian Horton, the manager, and may well repeat their requests if Huddersfield do not improve against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux today.

"There's no way I'm walking away from this club," Horton said. "I'm working very hard to put things right and I care very much about the club. I had a reputation of being a battler as a player and that's exactly what I am as a manager. There's no way I'm going to let my head drop."

Billy Bonds, the Millwall manager, continued his recent spending spree yesterday by signing Nigel Spink, the goalkeeper, from West Bromwich Albion for £50,000.

Spink, 39, who played in Aston Villa's European Cup final victory against Bayern Munich in 1982, is Bonds's third signing after the arrival of the strikers, Paul Shaw and Paul Wilkinson, from Arsenal and Barnsley respectively, for a combined £400,000.

Injury rules out Ripley for England

STUART RIPLEY will not recover from injury in time to make the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match in Italy. At the start of the week, Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, offered to hurry the winger back after his pulled hamstring if Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, wanted him for the game in Rome on October 11.

But yesterday Hodgson said that Ripley will not play until next Saturday against Wimbledon at the earliest, which is too late for an England call-up.

Andy Impey, 21, is in line to make his debut for West Ham United against Liverpool at Upton Park today after his transfer for £1.2 million from Queens Park Rangers.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, yesterday denied reports that Arsenal have made a bid for Jason McAteer, the unsettled Liverpool midfield player.

Rangers wear heavy disguise

By Kevin McCarra

THOSE with their eyes fixed only on results may believe that they have witnessed Scottish football sticking fast to its traditional ways. On Wednesday, Rangers won 3-0 at Kilmarnock to assume their familiar leadership of the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

Facts, however, can be flimsy. The league table might still resemble an icebound landscape, unable to change and never to permit fresh growth, but the mood of the game is far from desolate. Despite superficial appearances, the season has not corresponded to the dreary predictions and Rangers, to their distress, have proved that their success is never a matter of destiny.

Reaching the top of the premier division will not be enough to mollify their aggrieved supporters. In the summer, after the outlay of £14 million on eight new players, the public and the pundits were united in trumpeting the might and depth of the Rangers squad. Only their opponents failed to swoon.

Some signings are injured, others seem bland and Rangers have been removed from the European Cup by IFK Gothenburg, from the Coca-Cola Cup by Dundee United, and lag 2-1 to a humdrum Strasbourg team after the first leg of their Uefa Cup tie. Rangers have hardly troubled to conceal the fact that they are flustered.

It may have hurt their pride to re-sign Richard Gough, who is expected to return from Kansas City Wizards next month, but this slice of humble pie may be nutritious. The centre half is 35, yet Rangers have still to demonstrate that they can find successors for such Scots, whose resolve underwrote success at Ibrox over many years.

Celtic, too, have proved surprising, although in their case the shock comes from a failure to live down to expectations. Wim Jansen, their Dutch coach, was a formidable player, but he lacks the patina of celebrity that would have ensured respect. His appointment, in the summer, was met with disdain. Defeats by Hibernian and Dunfermline Athletic, in Celtic's opening league matches, added to the forlorn impression, but the club has not been beaten by any other Scottish club since then and, in last weekend's 2-0 win over Aberdeen, the tactical solidity of Jansen's side was as striking as its elan. Now, of course, Celtic face the difficulty of retaining the form they have discovered.

Today, they are at Dundee United and even if Tommy McLean's team are without a victory in the League, Celtic will be mindful of their feat in removing Rangers from the Coca-Cola Cup. Rangers themselves, at home to Motherwell, may once more be able to further their interests in a season that has so far brought only denigration.

For Aberdeen, catcalls have almost become a soundtrack. They are bottom of the table and the mortification is made all the more intense by perplexity. A squad that seemed to have been thoughtfully reconstructed in the close season should amass a sturdy record and take up a respectable position in the league.

Instead, they are last and the match at home today, against Dunfermline, does not guarantee revival. So far, the premier division has been a disconcerting affair with Hibernian, at home to St Johnstone today, and Heart of Midlothian, who are at Kilmarnock, engaged in a joint exercise to restore dignity to football in Edinburgh.

☐ Scotland's first, second and third division clubs have been promised a share of around £1 million a season if the proposed Premiership league becomes a reality. Lex Gold, chairman of Hibernian and spokesman for the premier division clubs, yesterday outlined the criteria and principles of the proposed new league and revealed that £985,000 would be given to the 30 clubs outside the top flight — a sum similar to that which they receive at present from the Scottish League.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

CHELSEA
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt

Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's Italian forward, admitted yesterday that his team must beat Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge today to maintain their status as genuine challengers for the FA Carling Premiership title.

This is the third of four games for Chelsea against other leading contenders and they need the psychological boost of a win against Kenny Dalglish's team after the loss to Arsenal last Sunday and the bruising draw with Manchester United in midweek.

Newcastle, still inspired by their Champions' League victory over Barcelona ten days ago and with Faustino Asprilla in his best form since he arrived at St James' Park, would go to the top of the Premiership if they won their games in hand.

After a quiet start, though, Zola is showing signs of returning to the form that made him player of the year last season, and yesterday, at the club's training ground, he did not try to dodge the importance of this match.

"Tomorrow is a very, very important game for us," he said. "We are playing against a team that is one of the candidates for the championship and we need to take a big step forward against them. We need to consolidate all the work we have done.

"Last year, we were a team that had good skills but did not believe too much in themselves. This year, we have bought six or seven more good players and we have got that belief in ourselves. I have not played at the same level as last year yet. I am quite happy, but I am not completely satisfied. Soon, I will be back to where I was."

Chelsea will still be without the injured Michael Duberry, but Frank Sinclair returns after a three-match ban and Danny Granville is also added to the squad that travelled to Old Trafford. Once more, Ruud Gullit, the player-manager, gave no clues as to which strike force he would use, but Chelsea should just have the edge whoever he selects.

Even with their game against Dinamo Kiev next Wednesday in mind, there is no such uncertainty in the Newcastle camp. Asprilla will lead the line, probably aided by Keith Gillespie and Jon Dahl Tomasson. "Tino was a team-mate of mine at Parma," Zola said. "He did some unbelievable things while he was there, things that only he can do, but he was not consistent. Now he seems to have that as well."

CHELSEA (3-5-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, A Myers — D Petrescu, G Poyet, R Di Matteo, D Wise, G Le Saux — M Hughes, G Zola.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-1-1): S Given — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert — K Gillespie, R Lee, D Batty, J Barnes, A Pistone — J D Tomasson — F Asprilla.
Referee: M Riley

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Chelsea to win by one goal.

Many happy returns, Eric Cantona waits in vain for appreciative applause after scoring in the 4-0 romp at Elland Road last year

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

Manchester United can be sure of a cheery welcome from admiring Leeds United fans at Elland Road today. Here are 11 other teams who just don't get along

1. Liverpool and Manchester United
. . .they don't like Man U either

2. Brighton and Crystal Palace
Brighton fans are naturally envious of residents of Croydon

3. Barcelona and Real Madrid
The Catalans don't like Real . . . or anything else about Madrid for that matter

4. Chelsea and Leeds United
You may think the 1970 FA Cup Final is old news, but these two?

5. England and Germany
1966, 1970, 1990, 1996 . . . and a few other earlier fall-outs

6. Anderlecht and Nottingham Forest
Can't think what this is about

7. Reading, Oxford and Swindon
The battle for control of the "Didcot Triangle" is fierce

8. Ajax and Feyenoord
Amsterdam v Rotterdam — do you give a dam?

9. Portsmouth and Plymouth Argyle
Too much time contemplating their navals

10. Aberdeen and Rangers
The Dons hate Rangers more than Celtic do

11. El Salvador and Honduras
El Salvador pipped their neighbours for a place in the 1970 World Cup, so they had a war

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

ASTON VILLA
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

Instead of Neale Barry, a planner from Scunthorpe, having been appointed to take charge of affairs at Villa Park this afternoon, perhaps a psychologist would have been better suited. He could then delve into the innermost thoughts of Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa striker, to discover exactly what is wrong with the sullen superstar. Maybe he could also explain why Benito Carbone and David Hirst, the Sheffield Wednesday team-mates, almost came to blows during the 5-2 defeat against Derby County in midweek.

Dr Know could also judge the well-being of Bruce Grobbelaar if, as expected, he makes his debut after signing a three-month contract for Wednesday. Is Grobbelaar mentally fit to stand behind a kamikaze defence so soon after enduring such a lengthy court case? Or is he ideally qualified by virtue of always having been a goal kick short of the 90 minutes?

Mind games play a significant role in many matches and Villa, despite the 3-0 loss against Liverpool on Monday, should prove more capable of bouncing back from adversity. The omnipresent optimism of David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is waning.

ASTON VILLA (probable; 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper, S Curcic, A Wright — S Collymore, D Yorke.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible; 4-3-1-2): B Grobbelaar — P Blondeau, S Nicol, D Walker, I Nolan — G Whittingham, J Magilton, M Pembridge — N Clough — B Carbone, P Di Canio
Referee: N Barry.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: More woe for Wednesday.

LEEDS UNITED
v
MANCHESTER UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

David Maddock

Perhaps Manchester United could draft Jacques Delors into their squad, given the absence of a certain French figure for the supporters of Leeds United to focus on in their enduring loathing of Manchester United.

It won't seem the same without Cantona. No security guards, no spitting, no bile on the terraces, no eerie silence when he scores.

Alex Ferguson, the manager, won't fit the bill because he hasn't been whingeing enough lately, so it will have to be Roy Keane.

The Ireland midfield player was booked during an ill-tempered match against Chelsea in midweek, only a day after Ferguson claimed that his captain had turned over a new leaf and become a veritable choirboy.

It should be some contest if Hopkin is fit to oppose Keane and it is here that the match will be decided. Expect fireworks — Hopkin has ginger hair, Keane should have.

Leeds are about as consistent as Liberal Democrat feelings on a pact with Labour. The win at Southampton on Wednesday was the third on their travels, but they have yet to win at home this season and George Graham, the manager, admits he is baffled by such a contradiction in form.

Ferguson has almost a full squad to choose from and the time has surely come to put Andy Cole out of his misery by restoring Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to the starting line-up, with Teddy Sheringham also likely to be given a run before his European debut on Wednesday.

Last season, a resounding 4-0 victory at Elland Road for Manchester United resulted in Howard Wilkinson being sacked. With the parsimonious Graham in charge, a repeat is unlikely.

LEEDS UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, R Molenaar, D Robertson — G Kelly, A I Haaland, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro — R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.
MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, H Berg, G Pallister, P Neville — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs — E Sheringham, O G Solskjaer
Referee: M Bodenham.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Manchester United's third draw in a week

EVERTON
v
ARSENAL
Today, 3.0

Mark Hodkinson

Things are looking good for Arsenal and Dennis Bergkamp. The team sit on top of the FA Carling Premiership on goal difference and Bergkamp is in magnificent form.

Dr Peter O'Donoghue, of the University of Ulster, has devised a computerised system that shows that Bergkamp has more byte than any other striker in the Premiership. In a recent game he performed "high-intensity activity" during 13.43 per cent of the match. His nearest rival, Gianfranco Zola, of Chelsea, mustered 9.57 per cent.

One constant statistic is Arsenal's disciplinary record. Four players — Wright, Vieira, Bould and Bergkamp — have incurred two or more yellow cards each and only Crystal Palace have a worse record.

Everton are still unsettled and uninspiring with only vague evidence of a team taking shape. A survey by the club's fanzine, *Speke From The Harbour*, revealed that one in four supporters thought the highlight of last season was the sacking of Joe Royle, their former manager. Howard Kendall, take note.

Dixon and Winterburn were injured in midweek, but are expected to play. Everton have no new injury problems.

EVERTON (probable; 4-3-1-2): P Gerrard — E Barrett, S Bilic, D Watson, A Hinchcliffe — G Stuart, G Speed, A Grant — N Barmby — D Ferguson, D Cadamarteri.
ARSENAL (probable; 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, A Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright.
Referee: A Wilkie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to win by a single goal.

BARNSLEY
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Michael Henderson

This is the sort of match that Barnsley must win if they are to remain an FA Carling Premiership club. They are not expected to beat the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool. In fact, they can trade in those points right now.

But, if they fail to beat teams such as Leicester City, who are goodish but not sufficiently accomplished to be intimidating, they will return to the Nationwide League first division PDQ.

Barnsley lost at Wimbledon the other night after turning round a goal to the good and cannot afford to spurn such opportunities. They were promoted on merit, having won a reputation for playing good football, but those memories will not sustain them in a league which may lack distinction but which, nevertheless, punishes those who fall behind the pace.

There is no right or wrong, good or bad time to play anybody, but Barnsley will not mind meeting Leicester a few days before the Foxes attempt to overturn the one-goal deficit they brought back from Spain in the Uefa Cup two weeks ago.

To beat Atlético Madrid over two legs would be glory indeed; to win at Oakwell no more than they would expect.

BARNSLEY (possible, 4-4-2): D Watson — M Appleby, A Moses, A de Zeeuw, A Krizan — N Redfearn, E Tinkler, D Sheridan, M Bullock — A Liddell, D Barnard.
LEICESTER CITY (probable 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, I Marshall — P Kaamark, N Lennon, G Parker, M Izzet, S Guppy — G Fenton, E Heskey
Referee: G Poll

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Leicester to win 2-1.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.0

Matt Dickinson

Things must be worse for Tottenham Hotspur than anybody imagined if Gerry Francis, the manager, feels the need to try to sign Italians with dubious reputations for promoting dressing-room harmony. Yet Tottenham's acute striking problems could ease substantially today if Les Ferdinand is deemed fit enough after a stomach strain to line up alongside the newly returned Chris Armstrong, who is expected to make his first FA Carling Premiership start since December.

With Ginola and Dominguez supplying that pacy and powerful pair, Spurs may finally discover the potency that has been sorely missing with just one goal in their past four Premiership games.

They take on a Wimbledon side that is equally fitful. A truly woeful first-half performance in midweek against Barnsley was followed by a four-goal romp in the second. Marcus Gayle could return to bolster their forward line and Michael Hughes should make his debut after his £1.6 million transfer from West Ham United.

This fixture has a habit of throwing up controversy and it could be a physical confrontation. Ferdinand's return should prove enough to give Spurs victory and put their flirtation with Fabrizio Ravanelli behind them.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable: 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, G Mabbutt, C Wilson — D Ginola, C Calderwood, S Clemence, J Dominguez — C Armstrong, L Ferdinand
WIMBLEDON (probable: 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — C Hughes, R Earle, V Jones, M Hughes — E Ekoku, M Gayle.
Referee: P Durkin

■ TELEVISION: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Spurs to win 2-1.

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
BOLTON WANDERERS
Today, 3.0

Keith Pike

Barnsley play the most attractive football. Bolton Wanderers have the best stadium, but of the three FA Carling Premiership newcomers, Crystal Palace have made the most encouraging start. If only they could reproduce their away form (P5, W3, D1) at Selhurst Park (P3, L3).

Before packing his bags for Craven Cottage, Ray Wilkins, the departing Palace coach, acknowledged the team's lack of star quality — and dismissed its relevance. "They are a group of 20 lads who really give everything for each other," he said. "With that, you have half a chance." That said, Palace will be desperate for Attilio Lombardo, their one genuine high-quality performer — and their leading goalscorer — to recover from a thigh strain to face Bolton today.

Bolton's lack of firepower prompted Colin Todd to visit the Continent this week in search of a striker, the partnership of McGinlay and Blake, which plundered 43 league goals last season, having managed just three so far this term. Returning empty-handed, Todd then dismissed speculation that McGinlay was on his way to Stockport County and that he had made a £2 million bid for Steve Howey, the Newcastle United defender. McGinlay, Taggart, Sellars and Thompson face fitness tests.

CRYSTAL PALACE (possible, 3-5-2): K Miller — A Linighan, M Edworthy, H Hreidarsson — K Muscat, A Lombardo, A Roberts, J Fullarton, D Gordon — B Dyer, P Warhurst
BOLTON WANDERERS (possible, 4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Fish, G Taggart, M Whitlow — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — N Blake, P Beardsley
Referee: D Elleray

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights

■ PREDICTION: Palace — just.

WEST HAM UNITED
v
LIVERPOOL
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Brian Glanville

Unless West Ham United can improve on their wretched defensive performance against Arsenal in midweek, they could be in for another hiding. Liverpool, who beat Aston Villa last Monday, rejoice in an abundance of talent up front. Which one to leave out: Michael Owen, Robbie Fowler or Karlheinz Riedle?

Owen is one of the most remarkable talents to emerge in English football for years, more precocious even than Fowler. At 17, he has the poise and confidence of an experienced professional — and exceptional speed.

If West Ham want to contain him, they must sort out their tactics in defence. Having recruited Unsworth and Pearce, in place of Bilic and Rieper, they now have, with the promising Rio Ferdinand, three acknowledged centre backs who should comprise a decent unit.

But at Highbury, the left-footed Unsworth spent much of his time on the flank, while Pearce was badly outpaced by Bergkamp for Arsenal's first goal. The good news is that Andy Impey, the former Queens Park Rangers player, will make his debut and Eyal Berkovic should be fit.

Liverpool are expected to welcome back Paul Ince, well though Danny Murphy and James Carragher played against Villa.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, R Ferdinand, I Pearce, D Unsworth — A Impey, S Lomas, E Berkovic, S Lazaridis — J Hartson, I Dowie
LIVERPOOL (probable, 3-5-2): D James — M Wright, B T Kvarme, D Matteo — J McAteer, M Thomas, P Ince, S McManaman, S I Bjornebye — M Owen, R Fowler
Referee: D Gallagher

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights

■ PREDICTION: Liverpool to win.

DERBY COUNTY
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 3.0

Peter Robinson

Talk about fickle. Half-time comes and David Jones strolls along the touchline with warm applause ringing in his ears; 45 minutes of dull football later, he makes the same trip to a chorus of boos. So it was at The Dell on Wednesday, when Southampton lost 2-0 to Leeds United. Fickle fans, managers hate 'em. Good job Carlton Palmer is coming to the rescue, then.

You may laugh, but Jones, the Southampton manager, believes Palmer is the man for the job — and he may be right. The former England player will add experience and nous to a team that, on the evidence of the season so far, clearly needs it. They need to win today, too, or the "R" word — relegation — will be whispered.

Palmer, a £1 million signing from Leeds, will play, although whether in defence or midfield remains to be seen. He, or Dryden, will replace Monkou, who has pulled a groin muscle. Up front, Jones may gamble on the fitness of Ostenstad (ankle), and Le Tissier (hamstring). Evans, now an Irishman after a chat with Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, will step down.

And Derby County? The saying goes: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," so, after thumping Sheffield Wednesday 5-2 at Hillsborough, changes are unlikely.

DERBY COUNTY (probable, 3-4-1-2): M Poom — J Laursen, I Stimac, C Daily — G Rowett, S Eranio, L Carsley, C Powell — F Baiano — P Wanchope, D Burton
SOUTHAMPTON (possible, 4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, C Palmer, C Lundekvam, F Benali — M Oakley, K Richardson, A Neilson — M Le Tissier — E Ostenstad, K Davies
Referee: M Brandwood

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights

■ PREDICTION: Hard-fought home win.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

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BLACKBURN ROVERS
v
COVENTRY CITY
Tomorrow, 4.0

David Maddock

Chris Coleman is fit again, but he could be forgiven for wanting to avoid the televised visit of Coventry City tomorrow. It was in this fixture a year ago that he suffered a knee ligament injury that, at one stage, he feared would end his blossoming career.

"I was very down because it was an injury that took so long and there are times when you fear the worst. But I came through it and I'm ready now," he said.

Whatever his reservations, Coleman may be forced to take some part in the match because Stefan Henchoz picked up an injury in midweek.

Stuart Ripley may also make a surprise return, if only in the interests of his country.

"I don't want to risk him really, but I will speak to Glenn Hoddle and if he wants Stuart for the game in Italy then we will consider playing him," Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, said.

Coventry have no such worries given the lack of English talent in their squad, but they may have unearthed one for the future. The name is familiar — Shilton — and, yes, Sam is the son of Peter, but he is not a goalkeeper. He plays in midfield and Gordon Strachan is hugely impressed.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2): T Flowers — P Valery, S Henchoz, C Hendry, J Kenna — K Gallacher, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — C Sutton, M Dahlin
COVENTRY CITY (probable; 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — P Telfer, G McAllister, M Hall, S Shilton — D Huckerby, D Dublin.
Referee: P Jones

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 3, 4.0.

■ PREDICTION: Resounding Rovers win, Hendry first scorer at 16-1

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Answering the call to lead from front on a night to remember

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

For the first time in my Liverpool career, I was made captain of the team on Monday night. It was a proud moment for me to lead the lads out at Anfield.

It might be asked, why? It is true that, in many ways, a captain in football is not as important as in other sports, but it is not just an honorary role, either. I was captain against Aston Villa because Paul Ince and Mark Wright were injured and, surprisingly enough, I was one of the most experienced players left standing.

It was a strange feeling to realise that I had officially become an experienced player, whereas in the past I have always been a young player with promise.

It is an important thing, to a Liverpool lad, to be captain of the team from his city of birth, even more so when your family is from the city and supports the club and they see you wearing that armband. How many young kids from Liverpool have dreamt of doing that?

It is an important role, not because the captain can directly determine the outcome of game, but because you can be an important influence. There are captains I can recall, such as Tony Adams, who was captain on occasions when I played for England, who had tremendous inspirational qualities and would lead by example on the pitch. I suppose it is about taking responsibility. We have plenty of players in our side who do that, but my role against Villa was quite clear.

We had a young side out and I just had to help to keep them calm, try to stop them getting nervous and becoming intimidated by the atmosphere. Michael Owen has some experience already, but some young players, such as Jamie Carragher, Danny Murphy and David Thompson, the substitute, were really pitched in at the deep end.

I can't make any great claims about my role as captain, apart from that I just talked to the lads. But then so did the other experienced players. Michael Thomas was helping me by pointing things out on the pitch and just keeping us going.

If I did anything right as captain, it was to win the toss and kick towards the Kop in the second half, the first time we had done so this season. In fact, I have got a 100 per cent record as Liverpool captain, which can't be bad.

I was pleased with the way that we played, mostly because the young players did so well. It was difficult for them because we were playing a good team and many people thought we would be turned over. The young lads have probably never felt an atmosphere like that, where there is so much expectation on them to do well, even though the odds are stacked against them.

We came through it, though, and played very well. We moved the ball quickly and, for perhaps the first time this season, looked really comfortable when we went forward at pace. I enjoyed the responsibility and the experience, but I don't think I will be keeping the armband.

Ronnie Moran, our coach, came up to me a couple of minutes before the kick-off, handed me the armband and said: "You'd better put that on." The lads gave me a bit of ribbing by calling me "skipper" but that was about it.

People have suggested that it improved my game, but I don't think so. I was pleased with my performance, but I hardly needed any greater motivation.

I have been in the spotlight quite regularly lately and I know some people will be thinking that I have scored goals and turned on performances because I want to prove my critics wrong. It just does not work like that. In every game you try your best, but you can have a good game, miss a sitter and people think you have not played well. On the other hand, you can have a stinker but score a goal and then you are the centre of attention and people believe that you must have made a decent contribution.

At least the victory over Villa showed that we have not got too many problems at Liverpool. It is just a question of fitting all the pieces together after the manager made quite a few summer signings.

■ On song for Europe

I think that I have had about 1,000 requests for tickets for the Uefa Cup match against Celtic at Anfield next week. I don't know how I am going to get all those tickets, but I am looking forward to the game, anyway. Even if Liverpool did not play particularly well in the first leg in Glasgow, it was still a great match to be involved in.

The atmosphere was absolutely tremendous and I hope that it will be like that at Anfield, although I also hope that the game does not work out the same.

We did score two decent away goals, though, which have given us a slight initiative that we must build on at Anfield next Tuesday night.

■ Welcome back, Kevin

I was extremely interested to see that Kevin Keegan is to return to the game with Fulham. It is good to see him back so quickly because, no matter what anyone thinks of him, he clearly loves football and he obviously has a lot to offer.

It is an exciting event, especially if you are a Fulham fan, because he is a massive name who has great charisma. I think that Keegan has a love affair with football. He obviously had problems at Newcastle United, in the sense that the pressure was so intense, and he said that it got too much for him. I can understand that. At Newcastle there is a massive expectation to win things, and to live that as the manager 24 hours a day would get to anyone. Many people thought that he would never return to a job in football.

At Fulham, it seems that Ray Wilkins will be the manager and Keegan will step back from the day-to-day operation and concentrate on a wider role, which could explain why he has come back so quickly. This must be such an exciting time to be a Fulham fan because, with the money of Mr Al Fayed behind them and a management team such as Keegan and Wilkins, they are surely destined for greater things.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. ARSENAL (4)	8	18	+12	3	1	0	10	1	2	2	0	10	7	5-3-0	W3
2. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	8	18	+9	3	1	0	8	3	2	2	0	4	0	5-3-0	D2
3. BLACKBURN ROVERS (2)	8	15	+10	2	1	1	12	7	2	2	0	7	2	4-3-1	D2
4. LEICESTER CITY (5)	8	15	+5	2	3	0	8	4	2	0	1	3	2	4-3-1	D1
5. CHELSEA (3)	7	13	+11	1	0	1	6	5	3	1	1	15	5	4-1-2	D1
6. LIVERPOOL (7)	7	12	+5	2	0	1	6	3	1	3	0	5	3	3-3-1	W1
7. NEWCASTLE UTD (12)	5	12	+2	3	0	1	5	4	1	0	0	1	0	4-0-1	W2
8. LEEDS UTD (9)	8	10	-1	0	1	3	1	6	3	0	1	9	5	3-1-4	W1
9. CRYSTAL PALACE (14)	8	10	-2	0	0	3	1	6	3	1	1	6	3	3-1-4	D1
10. WEST HAM UTD (6)	8	10	-3	2	0	1	5	3	1	1	3	5	10	3-1-4	L3
11. COVENTRY CITY (8)	8	10	-3	2	3	0	8	6	0	1	2	0	5	2-4-2	D2
12. DERBY COUNTY (11)	6	9	+3	2	0	0	4	1	1	0	3	6	6	3-0-3	W1
13. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (10)	8	9	-4	2	1	1	4	4	0	2	2	2	6	2-3-3	D2
14. ASTON VILLA (13)	8	9	-5	2	0	1	3	5	1	0	4	5	8	3-0-5	L1
15. WIMBLEDON (16)	7	8	0	1	2	2	6	6	1	0	1	4	4	2-2-3	W1
16. EVERTON (18)	7	7	-3	2	0	2	7	7	0	1	2	1	4	2-1-4	L1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (17)	7	7	-3	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	2	5	8	1-4-2	D2
18. BARNSLEY (15)	8	6	-14	1	0	3	3	12	1	0	3	4	9	2-0-5	L4
19. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (19)	8	5	-11	1	1	2	4	8	0	1	3	5	12	1-2-5	L1
20. SOUTHAMPTON (20)	8	4	-8	1	1	3	3	7	0	0	3	2	6	1-1-6	L1

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	21	3.00
2. Arsenal	20	2.50
3. Blackburn	19	2.37
4. Derby	10	1.67
5. Liverpool	11	1.57
6. Manchester Utd	12	1.50
7. Wimbledon	10	1.43
8. Leicester	11	1.37
9. Tottenham	6	1.33
10. Leeds	10	1.25
=. West Ham	10	1.25
12. Newcastle	6	1.20
13. Barnsley	7	1.14
=. Crystal Palace	7	1.14
=. Everton	8	1.14
16. Sheffield Wed	9	1.12
17. Coventry	8	1.00
=. Aston Villa	8	1.00
19. Bolton	6	0.86
20. Southampton	5	0.62

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	3	0.37
2. Leicester	6	0.75
3. Newcastle	4	0.80
4. Liverpool	6	0.85
5. Arsenal	8	1.00
6. Blackburn	9	1.12
=. Crystal Palace	9	1.12
8. Derby	7	1.17
9. Tottenham	10	1.25
10. Bolton	9	1.29
11. Coventry	11	1.37
=. Leeds	11	1.37
13. Chelsea	10	1.43
=. Wimbledon	10	1.43
15. Everton	11	1.57
16. Aston Villa	13	1.62
=. Southampton	13	1.62
=. West Ham	13	1.62
19. Sheffield Wed	20	2.50
20. Barnsley	21	2.62

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. C Palace	23	0
2. Chelsea	16	2
=. Sheffield Wed	16	2
4. Arsenal	18	0
=. Coventry	18	0
6. Everton	15	2
7. Tottenham	16	1
8. Leeds Utd	15	1
9. West Ham	15	0
=. Wimbledon	15	0
11. Blackburn	13	1
=. Bolton	13	1
13. Manchester Utd	14	0
=. Southampton	14	0
15. Leicester	11	0
16. Derby	10	0
=. Liverpool	10	0
=. Barnsley	10	0
19. Newcastle	8	1
20. Aston Villa	7	0

OFFENDERS

By team	Cards/players
Arsenal	4Y Bergkamp, Bould
Aston Villa	3Y Taylor
Barnsley	3Y Sheridan
Blackburn	2Y+1R Valery
Bolton	3Y Taggart
Chelsea	5Y Wise
Coventry	6Y Williams
C Palace	5Y Tuttle
Derby	2Y (3 players)
Everton	4Y+1R Bilic
Leeds Utd	3Y Molenaar
Leicester	3Y Heskey
Liverpool	3Y Ince
Man Utd	3Y Irwin
Newcastle	2Y+1R Batty
Sheff Wed	2Y+1R Carbone
Southampton	2Y Monkou, Williams
Tottenham	3Y+1R Edinburgh
West Ham	3Y Moncur, Lomas
Wimbledon	3Y Kimble

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Red
1. P Durkin	4	24	2
2. S Dunn	3	18	1
3. G Willard	5	29	2
4. M Riley	3	14	1
5. M Bodenham	4	17	0
6. P Alcock	4	16	0
=. U Rennie	4	16	0
8. G Ashby	3	12	0
9. G Barber	5	18	1
10. D Gallagher	4	13	1
11. P Jones	4	14	0
12. A Wilkie	5	14	1
=. J Winter	5	14	1
14. N Barry	4	12	0
15. M Reed	2	5	1
16. K Burge	4	11	0
17. G Poll	5	12	1
18. D Elleray	3	7	0
19. S Lodge	5	10	0

SCORERS

	Goals
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	8
Sutton (Blackburn)	8
Wright (Arsenal)	7
Gallacher (Blackburn)	6
Carbone (Sheff Wed)	5
Wallace (Leeds)	5
Dublin (Coventry)	4
Hartson (West Ham)	4
Vialli (Chelsea)	4
Baiano (Derby)	3
Blake (Bolton)	3
Davies (Southampton)	3
Ekoku (Wimbledon)	3
Ferdinand (Tottenham)	3
M Hughes (Chelsea)	3
Lombardo (C Palace)	3
Overmars (Arsenal)	3
Petrescu (Chelsea)	3
Redfearn (Barnsley)	3
Riedle (Liverpool)	3
Speed (Everton)	3
Walsh (Leicester)	3
Yorke (Aston Villa)	3

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	12	8
Aston Villa	2	6
Barnsley	4	3
Blackburn	15	4
Bolton	4	2
Chelsea	12	9
Coventry	5	3
Crystal Palace	3	4
Derby	7	3
Everton	3	5
Leeds Utd	8	2
Leicester	4	7
Liverpool	2	9
Manchester Utd	4	8
Newcastle	4	2
Sheffield Wed	4	5
Southampton	2	3
Tottenham	2	4
West Ham	3	7
Wimbledon	2	8

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
Arsenal	37,894	98%
Aston Villa	37,194	95%
Barnsley	18,537	100%
Blackburn	23,830	76%
Bolton	23,855	95%
Chelsea	31,510	100%
Coventry	18,439	78%
Crystal Palace	22,861	87%
Derby	27,530	92%
Everton	35,703	89%
Leeds	34,116	85%
Leicester	20,644	96%
Liverpool	34,852	100%
Manchester Utd	55,078	98%
Newcastle	36,681	100%
Sheffield Wed	24,962	63%
Southampton	15,168	99%
Tottenham	26,284	79%
West Ham	25,251	97%
Wimbledon	16,852	64%

AWAY

Attendance	P	Average
Arsenal	4	26,835
Aston Villa	5	27,379
Barnsley	4	22,277
Blackburn	4	26,114
Bolton	4	22,160
Chelsea	5	28,888
Coventry	3	37,828
Crystal Palace	5	22,494
Derby	4	26,820
Everton	3	29,221
Leeds	4	26,901
Leicester	3	29,826
Liverpool	4	27,830
Manchester Utd	4	28,165
Newcastle	1	25,884
Sheffield Wed	4	25,634
Southampton	3	34,558
Tottenham	4	26,893
West Ham	5	32,878
Wimbledon	2	30,386

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites	
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * *denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise tickets still available

TODAY

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday
(2) † Barnsley v Leicester
(3) † Chelsea v Newcastle
(4) Crystal Palace v Bolton
(5) Derby v Southampton
(6) Everton v Arsenal
(7) † Leeds v Manchester Utd
(8) * Tottenham v Wimbledon
(9) † West Ham v Liverpool

Nationwide League
First division

(10) Bury v West Bromwich
(11) Charlton v Stockport
(12) * Crewe v Tranmere
(13) Manchester City v Swindon
(14) Nottingham Forest v Stoke
(15) Oxford Utd v Bradford
(16) Port Vale v Queens Park Rangers
(17) Portsmouth v Reading
(18) Sheffield Utd v Birmingham
(19) Wolverhampton v Huddersfield

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	8	5	1	2	12	5	16
QPR	8	5	1	2	11	10	16
Swindon	8	4	3	1	9	5	15
West Brom	8	4	3	1	8	6	15
Bradford	8	4	2	2	12	13	14
Sheff Utd	6	4	2	0	9	3	14
Charlton	7	4	1	2	15	9	13
Sunderland	8	4	1	3	13	9	13
Birmingham	7	4	1	2	12	6	13
Wolves	8	3	3	2	11	9	12
Middlesbro	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Port Vale	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Bury	8	2	5	1	8	8	11
Stoke	7	3	2	2	7	7	11
* Norwich	8	3	1	4	6	14	10
Portsmouth	8	2	2	4	11	12	8
Tranmere	8	2	1	5	11	12	7
Oxford Utd	8	2	0	6	12	15	6
Stockport	8	1	3	4	10	11	6
Man City	7	1	3	3	10	12	6
Crewe	7	2	0	5	10	13	6
* Ipswich	6	1	3	2	8	9	6
Reading	8	1	1	6	4	18	4
Huddersfield	7	0	3	4	4	11	3

* *not including last night's match*

Second division

(20) Blackpool v Southend
(21) Bournemouth v Grimsby
(22) Brentford v Burnley
(23) Bristol City v Luton
(24) Carlisle v Gillingham
(25) * Northampton v Millwall
(26) Oldham v Bristol Rovers
(27) Plymouth v Walsall
(28) Watford v York
(29) Wigan v Fulham
(30) Wrexham v Chesterfield
(31) Wycombe v Preston

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	8	6	1	1	13	7	19
Northampton	8	5	2	1	10	5	17
Chesterfield	8	4	3	1	10	6	15
Oldham	8	3	4	1	12	10	13
Bristol Rov	8	3	4	1	9	5	13
Millwall	6	4	0	2	12	6	12
Bournemouth	8	3	3	2	10	7	12
Preston	8	3	3	2	9	6	12
Gillingham	8	3	3	2	9	9	12
Wycombe	8	3	2	3	15	15	11
Fulham	8	3	2	3	6	6	11
Wrexham	7	3	1	3	15	12	10
Wigan	8	3	1	4	12	11	10
Blackpool	8	3	1	4	11	17	10
York	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
Southend	8	3	1	4	9	13	10
Brentford	8	2	3	3	8	11	9
Carlisle	8	2	2	4	10	13	8
Bristol City	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Walsall	8	2	2	4	8	11	8
Grimsby	8	1	4	3	6	9	7
Plymouth	8	0	6	2	7	10	6
Luton	8	1	3	4	5	11	6
Burnley	8	0	4	4	2	7	4

Third division

(32) Barnet v Lincoln
(—) Brighton v Rochdale
(33) Cambridge Utd v Cardiff
(34) Colchester v Exeter
(35) Darlington v Mansfield
(36) Hartlepool v Shrewsbury
(37) Macclesfield v Peterborough
(38) Rotherham v Chester
(39) Scarborough v Notts County
(—) Scunthorpe v Hull
(—) Swansea v Leyton Orient
(—) Torquay v Doncaster

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peterborough	8	5	2	1	20	7	17
Notts County	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
Exeter	8	5	2	1	11	6	17
Scunthorpe	8	5	1	2	8	6	16
Camb Utd	8	4	2	2	14	10	14
Macclesfield	8	4	2	2	12	7	14
Colchester	8	4	2	2	12	11	14
Scarborough	8	4	2	2	11	9	14
Barnet	8	4	1	3	13	13	13
Chester	8	4	1	3	11	9	13
Lincoln	8	4	1	3	10	11	13
Cardiff	8	3	3	2	9	9	12
L Orient	8	4	0	4	8	7	12
Hartlepool	8	2	5	1	11	8	11
Mansfield	8	3	1	4	10	8	10
Torquay	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
Rotherham	8	2	3	3	12	13	9
Swansea	8	3	0	5	11	16	9
Rochdale	8	3	0	5	9	10	9
Shrewsbury	8	2	1	5	10	14	7
Darlington	8	1	3	4	8	11	6
Hull	8	1	1	6	8	16	4
Brighton	8	0	3	5	5	13	3
Doncaster	8	0	3	5	4	17	3

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Hayes v Hednesford
(—) Hereford v Stalybridge
(—) Kidderminster v Farnborough
(—) Northwich v Stevenage
(—) Southport v Rushden and Diamonds
(—) Woking v Morecambe

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Aberdeen v Dunfermline
(41) Dundee Utd v Celtic
(42) Hibernian v St Johnstone
(43) Kilmarnock v Hearts
(44) Rangers v Motherwell

First division

(45) Airdrie v Ayr
(46) Greenock Morton v Dundee
(47) Hamilton v Stirling
(48) Raith v Falkirk
(49) St Mirren v Partick

Second division

(—) Brechin v Queen of South
(—) Inverness CT v Clyde
(—) Livingston v Clydebank
(—) Stenhousemuir v Forfar
(—) Stranraer v East Fife

Third division

(—) Alloa v Arbroath
(—) Berwick v East Stirling
(—) Cowdenbeath v Albion
(—) Dumbarton v Queen's Park
(—) Montrose v Ross County

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Crawley. Midland division: Blakenall v Sutton Coldfield Town; Evesham v Moor Green. Paget R v Raunds T, Wisbech Town v Shepshed D. Southern division: Cirencester Town v Weymouth, Newport AFC v Chelmsford; Trowbridge v Bashley; Witney v Baldock.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Red v Hendon, Enfield v St Albans. First division: Chertsey v Leyton Pennant; Molesey v Abingdon Town; Thame Utd v Berkhamsted, Uxbridge v Aldershot Town. Second division: Bracknell v Cheshunt, Chalfont St Peter v Banstead; Horsham v Northwood, Leighton Town v Edgware. Third division: Croydon v Clapton; East Thurrock v Ford Utd; Epsom and Ewell v H Hempstead; Hornchurch v Ware; Lewes v Kingsbury; Southall v Hertford.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Barrow. Altrincham v Boston, Colwyn Bay v Runcorn; Frickley v Accrington Stanley, Radcliffe v Spennymoor. First division: Bradford Pk Ave v Netherfield; Buxton v Great Harwood; Congleton v Ashton United. Droylsden v Trafford; Eastwood Town v Matlock Town, Flixton v Workington, Harrogate Town v Whitley Bay; Stocksbridge PS v Alfreton

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Rhyl (2.30), Bangor City v Barry (2.0); Caersws v Caernarfon (2.30); Conwy v Carmarthen Town (2.0); Cwmbran v Cemaes Ynys Mon (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Connah's Quay (2.30); Flint Town v Haverfordwest (2.30), Inter Cable-Tel v Porthmadog (2.30); TNS v Rhayader Town (2.30); Welshpool v Newtown (2.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Glentoran; Cliftonville v Omagh, Coleraine v Glenavon; Crusaders v Linfield, Portadown v Ards.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Shelbourne (7.30); Sligo v Derry (7.30)

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Elgin v Huntly; Forres Mechanics v Keith, Lossiemouth v Wick Academy.

FA CUP: Second qualifying round: Gateshead v Gainsborough; South Shields v Maine Road; Halifax v Leigh RMI; Burscough v Ossett Town; Chorley v Bishop Auckland; Ilkeston v RTM Newcastle, Whitby v Winsford, Arnold v Shotton Comrades; Hyde v Lancaster; Ryhope CA v St Helens; Durham v Emley; Belper Town v Parkgate, Morpeth v N Ferriby; Gretna v Liversedge, Garforth v Blyth Spartans; Brigg Town v Worksop, Bamber Bridge v Marine; Clitheroe v Lincoln United, Guiseley v Farsley Celtic; Penrith v Easington Colliery; Bedworth v Nuneaton; Stourbridge v Bridgnorth; Kettering v Cambridge City; Hinckley Utd v Great Yarmouth, Sudbury v Bromsgrove; Brackley Town v Rocester; Knypersley V v Gresley, Spalding v Lowestoft; Rothwell v Halesowen Town, Redditch v Willenhall; Bilston v King's Lynn; Newmarket v VS Rugby; Solihull v Grantham; Woodbridge Town v Boldmere St M; Whyteleafe v Heybridge Swifts; Marlow v Flackwell Heath; St Leonards Stamcroft v Canvey Island, Grays v Camberley Town; Bognor Regis v Hastings, Croydon v Aveley; Sittingbourne v Purfleet, Langney Sports v Dorking; Welling v Sutton United; Tonbridge v Worthing; Walton and Hersham v Slough; Tilbury v Wingate and Finchley; Dover v Kingstonian; Metropolitan Police v Wivenhoe, Braintree v Chesham; Windsor and Eton v Barton Rovers, Margate v Harrow; Portfield v Deal, Yeading v Stansted; Potton v Romford; Aylesbury v Carshalton; Wembley v Fisher; Billericay v Dulwich Hamlet; Ruislip Manor v Erith and Belvedere, Barking v Hanwell, Merthyr Tydfil v Cheltenham; Bridgwater v Paulton R; Worcester v Yeovil; Chippenham v Wokingham; Dorchester v Forest Green, Tiverton v Wimborne, Basingstoke v Bath, Fleet T v Calne; Salisbury v Weston-super-Mare, Buckingham Town v Taunton, Gloucester v Newport (IoW); Portsmouth Royal Navy v Waterlooville.

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

Blackburn v Coventry (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

Sunderland v Middlesbrough (1.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v St Patrick's Ath (2.0); UCD v Drogheda (3.15)

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Peterhead v Clachnacuddin

FA CUP: Second qualifying round: Dartford v Slaines

BROADCASTING

BBC1: Today: Football Focus, in *Grandstand*, from 12.20pm; *Match of the Day*, 10.50pm (main match: Derby County v Southampton)

CHANNEL 4: Tomorrow: *Football Italia*, AC Milan v Vicenza (live), from 2.45pm

SKY SPORTS: Today: 2: *Soccer AM*, from 8.30am. 3: Spanish league (live match, tbc), from 7pm. Tomorrow: 2: *Soccer Extra*, from 8am, Nationwide League, Sunderland v Middlesbrough (live), from 12pm. 3: *Goals on Sunday*, from 11am, Ford Super Sunday, Blackburn Rovers v Coventry City (live), from 3pm; Highlights of Blackburn v Coventry, from 9.30pm; Highlights of Spanish league, from 11pm.

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE: Today: Live coverage of a Premiership match (tbc), in *Sport on 5*, from 8.30am. Tomorrow: Coverage of Blackburn v Coventry (live), in *Ryder Cup Sunday Sport*, from 11am

FULHAM F.C. TWINNED WITH HARRODS
YOU CAN'T COME IN DRESSED LIKE THAT

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

CRICKET

Tufnell faces ban over claims he refused drug test

By John Goodbody

Tufnell: faces ECB inquiry

THE news that Phil Tufnell has allegedly refused to give a urine sample for a random drugs test could have the most severe repercussions for the Middlesex spin bowler.

If the charge is proved, Tufnell could be dropped from the England party to tour the West Indies in January and be banned from cricket for at least the whole of the 1998 season, because refusing to provide a sample is as serious as having a positive test for a banned substance.

Tufnell, 31, has just fought back into Test cricket after a series of incidents that have not endeared him to the authorities.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) yesterday announced it has received a report from the United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC), which conducts drug-testing for all sports, that Tufnell declined to give a specimen during *Middlesex's* game against Essex at Chelmsford last week, the last fixture of the county season. When Tufnell returns from his holiday abroad, he will face an ECB disciplinary hearing.

Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, said yesterday: "It is potentially a serious matter but it would be quite wrong of us to pre-empt the result of the disciplinary hearing. It is only right to give Phil the opportunity to put his side of the story."

Point seven of the ECB's guidelines on drug-testing says: "It is an offence regarded as serious as giving a positive sample. There is no excuse for failing to comply with the *notice to take drug control* tests and, if you do not take it, you are liable to be dealt with as if you have been shown to have had a prohibited substance in your body."

There are about 130 drug tests in cricket every year and the most notorious positive case was when Ed Giddins, the Sussex fast bowler, was found to have taken cocaine. He was banned from cricket for 19 months and will be allowed to return on April 1 next year.

Tufnell's career has been studded with controversy. In 1994, he was fined £800 by a North London court for assaulting his former fiancée, Jane McEvoy, while she was pregnant. She later claimed that Tufnell had taken cocaine, which he denied. However, Tufnell was attacked with a brick by his fiancée's father and Middlesex had to give him compassionate leave while he sorted out his personal life.

He once spent a night in a mental hospital after repeatedly hitting his head against the walls of a hotel in Perth, Australia. On the field, he was fined in 1993 for snatching his cap from an umpire during the England tour of India and also fined for hurling the ball to the ground against the *Australians. Middlesex have* fined him for making an obscene gesture to spectators at Lord's.

The latest incident was in February this year, when he was alleged to have smoked marijuana in the lavatory of a restaurant in New Zealand, a claim he denied.

After all the controversy, he kept trying to get a regular place in the England team. He was selected for the first five Tests this year but was released without bowling a ball. When he was at last chosen, for the last match at the Oval, he took 11 for 93 and was named man of the match in England's thrilling victory.

He was automatically picked for the West Indies tour but, just as he thought his career was finally in the ascendancy again, he faces this latest blow. He has played 28 Tests for England.

Whittall hits heights

A CAREER-BEST double-century from Guy Whittall put New Zealand on the defensive on the second day of the second and final Test match in Bulawayo yesterday. Whittall's undefeated 203 helped Zimbabwe to 461, their third-highest total in 24 Tests, leaving New Zealand with little to play for beyond the draw and, at the close, they were 23 without loss.

☐ Devon Malcolm has dismissed rumours that he is ready to end his Derbyshire career. The England fast bowler has been linked with a lucrative move to Worcestershire but last night insisted he was set to stay at the County Ground. "People like to dream about my future and these are just rumours," Malcolm, 34, said.

☐ The England and Wales Cricket Board has announced a sponsorship deal with Pepsi-Cola for the World Cup in England in 1999.

Briton produces masterclass

Whitaker turns on the style at Wembley

By Jenny MacArthur

ANDRE CAMARA

Whitaker powers to victory on Virtual Village Heyman

JOHN WHITAKER, who is thrilling the crowds at Wembley with his acclaimed "teach-in" for novice jumpers, gave a convincing display of his winning style in the NSR Silver Bullet Salver at the Horse of the Year Show yesterday, when he and Virtual Village Heyman relegated the Norwegian national champion, Geir Gulliksen, on Alex H, to second place by 0.76sec.

In a rewarding day for the Yorkshire rider, Whitaker later finished a close second to James Fisher on his Linz Grand Prix winner, Renville, in the Fordyce Curry International Cup.

Although the £500 that Whitaker won in the opening class was paltry compared with some of his previous winnings at Wembley (in 1989 he netted £27,000 in the Masters), his pleasure in Heyman's performance appeared to be reward enough. "He goes better each time out," Whitaker said. "He may not make an Olympic horse but he's very careful and very fast. He's definitely a horse for the future."

The eight-year-old Dutch-bred gelding had been outpaced in the opening speed class on Thursday, in which they finished fourth, and Whitaker was determined not to miss out again yesterday. The course was not over-demanding, putting a premium on speed. "I knew it would be fast as soon as I walked it," Whitaker said.

Heyman proved more than equal to the task. Effortlessly moving up a gear he sped round the 12-fence course, turning almost in mid-air after the double at fence No 5 to finish clear in 48.11sec. Although greeted as the winning round, Whitaker had to wait for confirmation until the next 22 riders had tried in vain to match his time.

Heyman has already proved he has the scope to match his speed, most recently in the Paris Grand Prix last week, where he was joint-eighth after incurring just four faults over his biggest track to date. Tonight he will encounter another demanding track when he competes in the Martin Collins leading showjumper of the year, one of the show's most coveted titles.

Earlier today, Whitaker will ride Grannusch, the 18-year-old who underlined his form with second place in the Fordyce Curry Cup yesterday, in the Daewoo championship. Ladbroke's, in their first venture into showjumping, have made him favourite. In between these two classes, Whitaker will give two more displays of his "teach-in" in partnership with Geoff Billington.

IN BRIEF

Late rally takes Australia through

ENGLAND'S hopes of reaching the final of the junior world cup hockey tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday disappeared as Australia scored two late goals to win a gruelling semi-final 2-1. Australia secured their third entry into the final, having finished runners-up in 1982 and 1989.

Australia's pressure finally broke down England's defence in the 58th minute when the substitute outside left, Taylor, found space on the left of the circle and pushed the ball into goal for a hard-earned equaliser. Elder scored the winner from a short corner four minutes later. England had taken the lead in the twelfth minute, when Simons finished off a well-worked short corner. England will play Germany tomorrow for the bronze medal.

Sainz to rejoin Toyota

MOTOR RALLYING: Carlos Sainz, from Spain, the former world champion, is leaving Ford to rejoin Toyota next season after the completion of the Japanese team's one-year ban for using illegal turbo restrictors. Ove Andersson, president of Toyota Motorsport, said: "His wealth of experience and technical knowledge will be enormous assets in next year's assault on the world championship."

Marshall marches on

SQUASH: Peter Marshall yesterday defeated Rodney Eyles, of Australia, the top seed, 15-7, 15-14, 15-13 in the quarter-finals of the Rush Creek US Open championship in Minneapolis. It was Marshall's second win over the world No 2 this year. Marshall, 26, of Nottingham, will now meet Simon Parke, also of England, while Peter Nicol, the Scot, will play Jonathon Power.

Hollioake at the helm

CRICKET: England have been seeded third, behind West Indies, the holders, and Australia in the sixth New T & T Cathay Pacific International Hong Kong Sixes. Adam Hollioake, of Surrey, leads a squad containing six members of the party to tour Lahore and Sharjah in December.

ENGLAND SQUAD: A Hollioake (Surrey), A Brown (Surrey), D Brown (Warwickshire), M Ealham (Kent), M Fleming (Kent), B Hollioake (Surrey), G Lloyd (Lancashire).

Hosts entertain England

HOCKEY: England have been drawn in the same group as Holland, the hosts, and South Korea, the Olympic silver medal-winners, in the women's World Cup finals in Utrecht next May. Scotland have been drawn in the same group as Australia, the world and Olympic champions.

WORLD CUP: Pool A: Australia, China, Germany, Scotland, South Africa, United States. Pool B: Argentina, England, India, South Korea, Holland, New Zealand.

Burton's name lives on

CYCLING: A permanent memorial to Beryl Burton, who won seven world road and track championships between 1959 and 1967, will be unveiled this evening at the Manchester velodrome. The memorial is a large display cabinet presented by the Road Time-Trials Council, whose British best all-rounder championship was won by Burton, who died last year, 25 years in succession.

MOTOR RACING: PANIS MAKES RAPID RETURN TO FORMULA ONE STAGE

Villeneuve plans a quick getaway

From Richard Hobson
at the Nürburgring

IT IS supposed to be Michael Schumacher, the aloof perfectionist, who leaves nothing to chance. Yesterday, however, Jacques Villeneuve gave a passable impersonation of his rival for the Formula One drivers' world championship when he spoke of his preparations for the Luxemburg Grand Prix here tomorrow.

Villeneuve, who reduced the deficit between Schumacher and himself to one point at the Austrian Grand Prix last week, revealed that he spent Thursday at Silverstone attempting to remedy the poor starts that have blemished his season.

After exchanging the overall leadership with Schumacher four times during the early weeks of the season, Villeneuve has trailed the man who has won two world championships since the Canadian Grand Prix in June, a race remembered for the horrific accident experienced by Olivier Panis. While Panis returns tomorrow, after breaking his legs, it will take a monumental drive to divert attention from the compelling contest between the two leading protagonists.

Villeneuve won here last season and, as Damon Hill acknowledged when comparing the two drivers earlier this week, he has the advantage in machinery. Whether he can make the superiority of his Williams-Renault over Schumacher's Ferrari count is another matter.

"It would be stupid to lose the championship because of a bad start," Villeneuve, re-iterating that he is under contract to Williams in 1998, said after practice yesterday. He also worked on pit stops while in England. "Going there made the schedule tight, but it was very useful.

"We have had three bad starts and each time it has been clutch slip. In the split-second each time I felt it was wheel spin and did the opposite of what was right, but by the time I figured it out I lost two or three positions. You cannot exclude all of the others but, at this stage, the primary concern is to finish in front of Michael. This is a feel-good circuit for me because he was in my mirror here last year and that was a great feeling."

Villeneuve is annoyed at the tightening of the chicane here and believes the cold track temperatures may present difficulties. He can also expect a frosty reception from the crowd, with the track actually located in the Eifel Forest of Germany. Many of the 120,000 spectators will roar on Schumacher and they will not take kindly to the Williams team order that Heinz-Harald Frentzen, another German, will be expected to help Villeneuve. Asked about instructions, Villeneuve said bluntly: "I am fighting for the championship and Heinz-Harald is not. I do not intend to be behind him in any case."

It will be an emotional return for Panis. Third in the championship at the time of his accident, he was not expected to reappear this season, such was the scale of his injuries. "I never thought my career was over for a minute," Panis said. He finished eleventh in practice yesterday, one place ahead of Villeneuve, with Mika Hakkinen producing the quickest lap of 1min 17.998sec in his McLaren-Mercedes, and Schumacher eighth.

TENNIS: BRITON OVERCOMES KAFELNIKOV TO EARN SEMI-FINAL PLACE

Rusedski through to meet Sampras

From Julian Muscat
Tennis Correspondent
in Munich

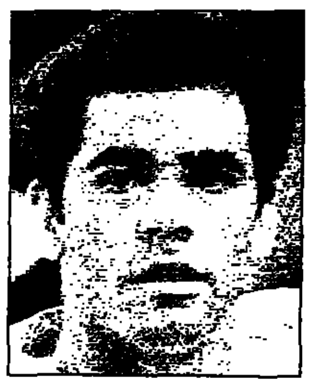
GREG RUSEDSKI'S battling qualities stood him in good stead here last night as he earned a place in the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Rusedski, the world No 10, beat Yevgeni Kafelnikov 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 and will now have his status subjected to its most severe test. Today, he faces Pete Sampras.

The British No 1, who is now guaranteed prize-money of £290,000, matched Kafelnikov every step of the way in the first set before losing out in the tie-break, but he showed all of the determination that has taken him up the rankings to take the second set 6-3. He then broke the former French Open champion three times to win the final set.

Like Rusedski, Jonas Bjorkman remains one step from joining the world elite, but whether he can take that final stride is open to considerable doubt. Having beaten Boris Becker here on Wednesday, Bjorkman was after larger headlines yesterday when he confronted Sampras. He failed on account of his fragile temperament, gift-wrapping Sampras victory with some ill-timed double faults.

At this level, intrinsic weaknesses are impossible to disguise. Bjorkman's first service is powerful enough but his second, a noticeably weak delivery, renders him vulnerable to the receiver. When that receiver is Sampras, Bjorkman's problem intensifies, so much so that, having matched Sampras in a tight first set, Bjorkman collapsed completely in the ensuing tie-break. The Swede double faulted at 5-5, handing Sampras a set point he squandered with a loose volley. Obligingly, however, Bjorkman double-faulted again at 6-7 to forfeit the set.

Worse was to follow. At 1-1 in the second, Bjorkman saved the first of two break points with a strong first service. But when, at 30-40, Bjorkman's first service failed him, it was no surprise when his second followed suit. Sampras needed no second prompting to close out the match 7-6, 6-4.



Sampras: served patchily

Bjorkman's capitulation was a great pity. The victor over Sampras at Queen's Club three months ago, he looked perfectly at home trading blows with the game's arch exponent. He is among the batch of young turks taking aim at the top ten, but his fallibility under pressure is alarming.

Sampras, for his part, has the air of a man routinely detained in the office. Although he admits to having difficulty motivating himself outside the grand-slam tournaments, the Grand Slam Cup has become his counting house. In six appearances here, Sampras has accrued $6.4 million (about £4 million).

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

Second Test match

Zimbabwe v New Zealand

BULAWAYO (second day of five): New Zealand, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 438 runs behind Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G J Rennie c Harris b O'Connor	57
G W Flower c Fleming b Vettori	83
†A Flower c Harris b Vettori	39
G J Whittall not out	203
*A D R Campbell c Astle b O'Connor	7
D L Houghton b Cairns	32
P A Strang c Harris b Vettori	6
H H Streak lbw b Cairns	17
B C Strang c Fleming b Cairns	0
A G Huckle c Parore b Vettori	0
E Matambanadzo c Fleming b O'Connor	4
Extras (lb 10, w 2, nb 2)	14
Total	461

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-144, 2-148, 3-215, 4-244, 5-322, 6-343, 7-416, 8-420, 9-421

BOWLING: Sewell 19-4-81-0; O'Connor 27-9-80-3; Cairns 26-11-97-3; Vettori 58-11-165-4; Harris 14-6-13-0; Astle 7-2-15-0

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

C M Spearman not out	14
B A Pocock not out	7
Extras (lb 1, nb 1)	2
Total (no wkt)	23

M J Horne, *S P Fleming, N J Astle, C L Cairns, †A C Parore, C Z Harris, D L Vettori, S B O'Connor and D G Sewell to bat.

BOWLING: Streak 5-1-10-0; Matambanadzo 3-1-5-0; P A Strang 5-4-2-0; Huckle 1-1-0-0; B C Strang 3-1-5-0

Umpires: R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 2 Atlanta 3 (10inns); Montreal 3 Florida 2; Houston 9 Chicago Cubs 1; St Louis 3 Cincinnati 4 (14inns); Colorado 5 Los Angeles 9.
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 1 Boston 3; Milwaukee 1 Kansas City 2; Cleveland 4 New York Yankees 5 (10inns); Toronto 4 Baltimore 3; Chicago White Sox 10 Minnesota 5; Anaheim 5 Texas 8.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 104 Leicester Riders 99.
EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: Maccabi Tel Aviv 87 Real Madrid 82; Limoges (Fr) 62 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 77; Olympiakos Piraeus (Gr) 86 CSKA Moscow 74. Group B: Croatia Split 74 PAOK Salonika (Gr) 76; Benetton (It) 76 Porto 67. Group C: Barcelona 87 Partizan Belgrade 71; Hapoel Jerusalem 80 Ulker Istanbul 74. Group D: Alba Berlin 79 Racing Paris 71 (OT).

BOWLS

GUERNSEY: European championship: Pairs: Fourth round: Jersey (S Dingle and C Renouf) bt Spain (C Toleman and T Pilling) 18-14; Wales (A Dainton and D Wilkins) bt Scotland (J Lindores and G Adrain) 21-15; Ireland (D Kane and G McCloy) bt England (J Baker and B Morley) 17-14; Guernsey (B Hurford and B Simon) bt Holland (J Tromp and W van Ginkel) 19-6; Wales (J Wason and W Thomas) bt England (M Price and J Bell) 17-16; Ireland (M Johnston and N Graham) bt Spain (P Cole and D Toleman) 30-8; Guernsey (A Simon and G Pitschou) bt Holland (J Aartsen and W Smit) 37-10; Jersey (C Syvret and D Le Marquand) bt Scotland (S and D Gourlay) 19-17. Fifth round: Ireland (Kane and McCloy) bt Holland (Tromp and Van Ginkel) 31-12; England (Baker and Morley) bt Guernsey (Hurford and Simon) 26-8; Wales (Dainton and Wilkins) bt Spain (Toleman and Pilling) 21-9; Scotland (Lindores and Adrain) bt Jersey (Dingle and Renouf) 30-5; Jersey (Syvret and Le Marquand) bt Guernsey (Simon and Pitschou) 15-13; Ireland (Johnston and Graham) bt Scotland (Gourlay and Gourlay) 24-8; England (Price and Bell) bt Holland (Aartsen and Smit) 31-8; Wales (Wason and Thomas) bt Spain (Cole and Toleman) 23-21.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Nineteenth stage (Valladolid to Los Angeles de San Rafael, 184km): 1, J M Jimenez (Sp, Banesto) 4hr 31min 38sec; 2, D Clavero (Sp, Estepona-Toscaf) at 1sec; 3, R Heras (Sp, Kelme-Costa Blanca) same time; 4, P Richard (Switz, Casino) 18; 5, L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE) 31. Leading overall positions: 1, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) 81hr 37min 27sec; 2, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme-Costa Blanca) at 2min 46sec; 3, L Dufaux (Switz, Lotus) 3:33.

EQUESTRIANISM

WEMBLEY: Horse of the Year Show: The Traxdata Challenge: 1, Virtual Village Showtime (N Skelton, GB) 0 in 54.76; 2, Dolly (P Charles, Ire) 0 in 55.24; 3, Interagro (T Stockdale, GB) 0 in 58.87. NSR Silver Bullet Salver: 1, Virtual Village Heyman (J Whitaker, GB) 0 in 48.11; 2, Alex H (G Gulliksen, Nor) 0 in 48.87; 3, Into Favour (A Davies, GB) 0 in 51.10. The McCusker Show Hunter of the Year: J L Dunlop's Red Hand (G Landau). Reserve: F Bateson's Jamaica Bay (R Oliver). Fordyce Curry International Cup: 1, Renville (J Fisher, GB) 0 in 29.77; 2, Virtual Village Grannusch (J Whitaker, GB) 0 in 31.31; 3, Coleapone Cesaro La Perla (F Eros, Hol) 0 in 33.66.

FOOTBALL

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa 2 Sheffield Wed 1; Blackburn 3 Stoke 0. First division: Notts County 0 Coventry 3. Second division: Burnley 1 Wrexham 2. Third division: Walsall 1 Scunthorpe 2.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers 1 Ipswich 2.
FA YOUTH CUP: Concord 3 Hoddesdon 5.
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Arnold 0 Huddersfield 3.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Fuji Film Trophy: First round: Huddersfield 1 Sheffield 3; Barrow 4 West Tyne 2.
FRENCH LEAGUE: Lyons 1 Lens 3; Bordeaux 2 Marseilles 0.
DUTCH LEAGUE: Sparta Rotterdam 4 Utrecht 2.
ITALIAN CUP: Second round, second leg: AS Roma 2 Verona 1 (Roma win 7-4 on agg).
SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP: Group one: Colo Colo (Chile) 2 Boca Juniors (Arg) 1. Group three: River Plate (Arg) 5 Vasco da Gama (Br) 1. Group four: Gremio (Br) 2 Nacional (Col) 2; Penarol (Uru) 2 Independiente (Arg) 2.
WORLD CUP: Asian qualifying zone: Group A: Qatar 1 China 1 (in Doha).

GOLF

ENDICOTT, New York: BC Open: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 66: G Kraft. 67: J Delsing, A Magee, M Smith, G Hjalberg, J Sindelar, S Murphy. 68: J McGovern, D Stockton Jr, M Weir, M Dawson, P Claxton. 69: A Bean, T Walsh, C Perry, L Mattiace, T Tryba, G Waite (NZ), L Silveira, D Sutherland.
WYNYARD CLUB: Mastercard Tour: Leading final scores: 267: O Edmond (Fr) 69, 67, 63, 68. 269: C Hainline (US) 71, 64, 66, 68. 272: R Hurd (Manor of Groves) 64, 68, 70, 70. 273: G Murphy (Irish Express Cargo) 70, 71, 68, 64. 274: W Bennett (unattached) 67, 72, 70, 65. 275: C Challen (Stoke Poges) 71, 68, 69, 67; C O'Carroll (Cottrell Park) 65, 71, 69, 70; R Winchester (unattached) 68, 75, 64, 68; M Archer (Grange Interiors) 63, 71, 67, 68.

RUGBY LEAGUE

International match

New Zealand 30 Australia 12

New Zealand: Tries: Eru 2, S Jones 2, Ridge, Vo. Goals: Ridge 3. Australia: Tries: Lockyer 2. Goals: Girdler 2.
(at North Harbour Stadium, Auckland)

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Newbridge 17 Cardiff 55.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: First round: Canterbury Col 72 Chatham GS 0; Shambrook Upper 7 Bromsgrove 50.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Latest positions: 1, EF Language 6,276.5 miles to finish; 2, Innovation Kvaerner 6,277.8; 3, Merit Cup 6,305.4; 4, Silk Cut 6,327.1; 5, Chessie Racing 6,331.9; 6, Toshiba 6,420.7; 7, Swedish Match 6,528.6; 8, America's Challenge 6,538.1; 9, EF Education 6,570.5; 10, BrunelSunergy 6,574.9.

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Swindon 49 Peterborough 41; Ipswich 52 Poole 38.
PREMIER LEAGUE: Isle of Wight 53 Edinburgh 36.
AMATEUR LEAGUE: Anglian Angels 21 Mildenhall 39 (abandoned after ten heats, but result stands).
SHEFFIELD: Ernde Northern riders championship: 1, J Screen (Bradford); 2, G Hancock (Coventry); 3, B Hamill (Belle Vue); 4, S Wilson (Bradford).

SQUASH

MINNEAPOLIS: United States Open: First round: Men: R Eyles (Aus) bt J Bonetat (Fr) 17-16, 15-8, 15-6; P Marshall (Eng) bt A Barada (Egypt) 15-14, 15-7, 15-10; D Harris (Eng) bt G Ryding (Can) 16-15, 8-15, 5-15, 15-9, 15-10; J Power (Can) bt M Heath (Scot) 15-12, 15-2, 10-5 ret. Women: R Macree (Eng) bt E Major (Aus) 9-10, 9-7, 9-3, 8-10, 9-5; S Schone (Ger) bt N Tippett (Aus) 3-9, 9-1, 9-3, 9-2; K Major (Aus) bt C Venter (SA) 9-4, 9-1, 10-8; S Wright (Eng) bt K Keevil (Aus) 9-6, 9-2, 10-8.

TENNIS

MUNICH: Compaq Grand Slam Cup: Quarter-finals: P Sampras (US) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 7-6, 6-4; G Rusedski (GB) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-7, 6-3, 6-1.
TOULOUSE: Men's tournament: Second round: M Philippoussis (Aus) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3; G Raoux (Fr) bt M Martelli (It) 6-3, 6-3. Quarter-finals: A Radulescu (Ger) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-1, 6-4; V Spadea (US) bt J Gimelstob (US) 6-3, 7-6.
BUCHAREST: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: M-K Göllner (Ger) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-2, 7-6; A Gaudenzi (It) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 6-2, 6-4; F Clavet (Sp) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; R Fromberg (Aus) bt A Portas (Sp) 6-4, 6-3.
SUNDERLAND: Satellite tournament (Great Britain unless stated): Men: Quarter-finals: D Sapsford bt A Parmar 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; R Barbier (Fr) bt N Gould 6-2, 2-6, 6-2; L Milligan bt M Gregore (Slovenia) 6-2, 6-4; N Watts bt P Robinson 4-6, 7-6, 7-6.
LEIPZIG: Women's tournament: Second round: S Kleinova (Cz) bt Y Basuki (Indo) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Quarter-finals: A Huber (Ger) bt I Majoli (Cro) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; J Novotna (Cz) bt Kleinova 6-4, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 6-1, 7-6.
SURABAYA, Indonesia: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: L Nemeckova (Cz) bt H Inoue (Japan) 6-2, 6-3; M A Vento (Ven) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; D van Roost (Bel) bt D Randriantefy (Mad) 6-0, 6-2; R McQuillan (Aus) bt N Pratt (Aus) 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

NURBURGRING DETAILS

LUXEMBURG GRAND PRIX: Practice times: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1min 17.998sec; 2, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:18.339; 3, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 1:18.434; 4, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:18.713; 5, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 1:18.794; 6, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:18.912; 7, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1:18.926; 8, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:18.954; 9, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:19.034; 10, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:19.091; 11, O Panis (Fr, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:19.412; 12, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:19.640; 13, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:19.708; 14, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:19.750; 15, S Nakano (Japan, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:20.073; 16, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:20.373; 17, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:20.592; 18, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:20.947; 19, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:21.118; 20, G Morbidelli (It, Sauber-Petronas) 1:21.387; 21, T Marques (Br, Minardi-Hart) 1:21.434; 22, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:38.344.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 14 races): Drivers: 1, M Schumacher 68pts; 2, Villeneuve 67; 3, Frentzen 31; 4, Coulthard 30; 5, Alesi 28; 6, Berger 21; 7, Fisichella 20; 8, Irvine 18; 9, Panis 15; 10 equal, Hakkinen and Herbert 14; 12, R Schumacher 13; 13, Hill 7; 14, Barrichello 6; 15, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 4; 16, Trulli 3; 17 equal, Salo and Nakano 2; 19, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas) 1. Constructors: 1, Williams-Renault 98; 2, Ferrari 86; 3, Benetton-Renault 53; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 44; 5, Jordan-Peugeot 33; 6, Prost Mugen-Honda 20; 7, Sauber-Petronas 15; 8, Arrows-Yamaha 7; 9, Stewart-Ford 6; 10, Tyrrell-Ford 2.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Luxembourg (Nürburgring). Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka). Oct 26: European (Jerez).

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Heineken Cup
Pool A
Leicester v Leinster
Pool B
Ulster v Swansea
(at Ravenhill, Belfast, 2.30)
Pool C
Bath v Scottish Borders
Pontypridd v Brive (2.15)
Pool D
Bourgoin v Harlequins (5.05)
Munster v Cardiff
(at Musgrave Park, Cork)
Pool E
Treviso v Caledonia (2.0)
European Conference
Pool A
Bristol v Ebbw Vale (2.0)
Pool B
Newport v Montferrand (2.0)
Pool C
London Irish v Dax (2.30)
Pool D
Bègles v Northampton (7.0)
Connacht v Nice
(at Sports Ground, Galway)
Pool E
Bridgend v Richmond (6.0)
Pool G
Biarritz v Edinburgh (7.0)
Perpignan v Newcastle (7.30)
Pool H
Castres v Saracens (1.15)
Narbonne v Neath (6.30)

Allied Dunbar Premiership
Second division
Coventry v Bedford
Fylde v Rotherham
London Scottish v Orrell
Moseley v Exeter
Waterloo v Blackheath
West Hartlepool v Wakefield

Jewson National League
First division
Harrogate v Reading
Leeds v Morley
London Welsh v Nottingham
Newbury v Lydney
Otley v Liverpool St Helens
Rosslyn Park v Worcester
Wharfedale v Rugby

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Hinckley v Nuneaton; Lichfield v Aspatria; Manchester v Kendal; Preston Grasshoppers v Birmingham/Solihull; Sedgley Park v Walsall; Stourbridge v Sheffield; Winnington Park v Sandal.
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH: Bridgwater v Camberley; Cheltenham v Henley; Clifton v Havant; Esher v Barking; North Walsham v Tabard; Redruth v Plymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Metropolitan Police.

Welsh League
First division
Aberavon v Merthyr (2.0)
Abertillery v Bonymaen (2.0)
Dunvant v Caerphilly (2.0)
Llandovery v Blackwood (2.0)
Pontypool v Rumney (2.0)
South Wales Police v Newbridge (2.0)
Treorchy v Cross Keys (2.0)
Cardiff Inst v Maesteg (2.0)

SRU League Trophy
Group A
Hawick v Glasgow Hawks
Heriot's FP v Currie
Kirkcaldy v Edinburgh Acads
Musselburgh v Melrose
Preston Lodge v Gala
Group B
Biggar v Watsonians
Dundee HSFP v Boroughmuir
Jed-Forest v Stirling County
Peebles v Kilmarnock
West of Scotland v Kelso

GROUP C: Aberdeen GSFP v Grangemouth; Stewart's Melville FP v Glenrothes. Group D: Ayr v Glasgow Southern; Selkirk v Stewartry.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v Heworth; Beverley v Wigan St Patrick's; Dudley Hill v Egremont; Lock Lane v West Hull; Mayfield v Saddleworth; Oldham St Anne's v Woolston; Walney Central v Leigh Miners. First division: Barrow Island v Oulton; East Leeds v Blackbrook; Leigh East v Milford; Moldgreen v Millom; Redhill v Shaw Cross; Skirlaugh v Thornhill; Wigan St Jude's v Eastmoor. Second division: Crosfields v Featherstone Amateur.

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton v Olton (12.30); Doncaster v Hightown (12.0); Slough v Sutton C (at Crossway, 12.0); Trojans v Ipswich (1.30). First division: Bedans v Loughborough Students (12.30); Canterbury v Bracknell (12.0); Leicester v Chelmsford (12.30); Wimbledon v Bradford (12.0). Second division: Aldridge v Woking (2.0); Bluharts v Poynton (12.30); Old Loughtonians v Ealing (1.0); W Witney v Sherwood (12.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASEBALL: National championship finals (at Waltham Abbey).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Manchester (7.30); Derby v Chester (7.30); Leicester v London Towers (7.30); Birmingham v Newcastle (7.30); Watford v Leopards (7.30); Thames Valley v Worthing (8.0).
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Sheffield v Ayr (7.0); Telford v Paisley (7.30); Nottingham v Slough (7.0); Basingstoke v Bracknell (6.30).
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Swindon v Coventry (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Sheffield (6.30); Stoke v Edinburgh (7.30).
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (in Sunderland).

Tomorrow

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup
Pool B
Wasps v Glasgow (3.0)
Pool E
Llanelli v Pau (2.15)
European Conference
Pool B
Sale v Montpellier (3.0)
Pool F
Toulon v Gloucester (6.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Premiership
Final
St Helens v Wigan
(at Old Trafford, 3.0)
Divisional Premiership
Final
Huddersfield v Hull
(at Old Trafford, 12.30)

OTHER SPORT

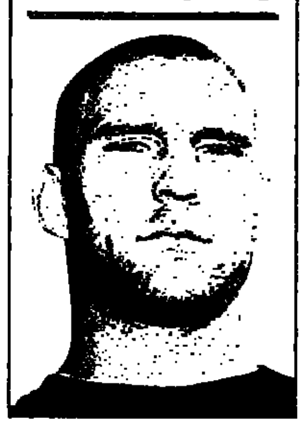
BASEBALL: National championship finals (at Waltham Abbey).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield v Derby (6.0); London Towers v Watford (5.0).
CYCLING: British Cycling Federation 25-miles time-trial championship (Ripon, 11.30am).
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Ayr v Telford (6.30); Manchester v Newcastle (6.0); Paisley v Sheffield (6.30); Bracknell v Peterborough (6.0); Cardiff v Nottingham (6.0).
MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship (at Donington Park).
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Poole (2.30); Eastbourne v Bradford (3.30); Coventry v Swindon (6.0). Premier League: Glasgow v Isle of Wight (1.30); Newcastle v Isle of Wight (7.30); Oxford v Arena Essex (7.0).
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (in Sunderland).

[illegible]

Attention to detail and competition for places will be the watchwords of new management team

England ready for move up to club class

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



Maybe in the past, some players have found that the England invitation letter dropping through the door has become standard procedure. After the two gatherings that we have had over the past 11 days with the new national team management at Bisham Abbey, it will be interesting to see how individuals develop their attitude towards Club England.

The key element that has come through strongly from Clive Woodward and his new colleagues is that the best 15 players — at any given time — will be the ones on the field. The management wants to encourage the competition that may have been lacking sometimes and the emphasis is on the word "elite". There may be as much pleasure for the management in removing players from the squad as including them.

What they have done is create an aura of uncertainty. This is no comfort zone for the 23 players named so far. The management have selected them on the basis of performance during the summer, with the British Isles in South Africa and with England in Argentina, but the summer is over. It has created a very competitive environment but, the way I see it, at the beginning of a new season you all start equal.

You have players who were successful on tour, players who may have been aggrieved to have missed out, players who have tasted international rugby in Argentina and want more. I'm in possession of the No 6 shirt but I, and every player, have to reaffirm form and status within the game. The best way of doing that is playing well for your club, be it in the league or in European competition.

You have to break down the season into cycles beyond which you can't afford to look. You can't think about the five nations' championship when there's such an important series of games waiting in November. The best international sides are stuffed full of players who perform consistently week by week — you cannot allow a situation in which players pick and choose when to perform. You cannot be spoon-fed adrenalin every week.

'Coaches must leave nothing to chance'

That is what happened with the Lions in South Africa and if we have learnt anything from the summer, whether you are a coach, player or administrator, it was that nothing should be left to chance, that nine times out of ten the most professional team off the field will be the best on it.

This management team has in place individuals with specific areas of responsibility and it is that attention to detail, that economy of scale that made the Lions successful in South Africa.

Clive has surrounded himself with the best coaches in England — John Mitchell from Sale, Richard Hill, from Gloucester and Rob Smith, which gives me particular pleasure since he is from Wasps, the club I captain. That these are all leading club figures is significant because there is a three-way relationship building, between England, the players and the clubs. Last year the politics did nothing to enhance the relationship between England, in the form of the Rugby Football Union, and the leading clubs and, if England are to move forward, the link must be a strong one.

People should remember, too, that Phil de Glanville took over as the captain of England at a particularly difficult, sensitive time in the history of the game and he has done a superb job. He is still the England captain and he not only had to do his job on the field but sort things out off the field as well. I know that there has been intense speculation about that particular role and, with the new structure that is in place, in the future, the England captain will not have so much to worry about.

The other issue here is that, if you are looking for an individual to lead England into a big tournament like the World Cup, you don't want to leave yourself prey to an unexpected injury or sudden loss of form. You need a contingency plan — after all, that happened to New Zealand before the first World Cup in 1987, when David Kirk took over from the injured Andy Dalton. You need a pool of players, any one of whom would be capable of stepping up.

The way the game is now, so much analysis is done off the field that little is left to chance. The captain's job is to harness the talent and operate at the coalface. The important thing is to get the best 15 players on the pitch and whoever has the honour and privilege of captaining England on the day will need every team member to make a contribution, to make key decisions under pressure.

England, though, is in the future. The Heineken Cup is with us now and the events of the past fortnight, involving Brive and Pontypridd, will surely have an effect upon all of us in the competition. Rugby is an uncompromising game, a highly physical, high-contact sport that at times is brutal. Players have to bring an edge to the game, play right to the limit and, at times, that can spill over into violence.

'Players must go right to the limit'

Guys have to control their discipline under pressure and, in the game at Brive, that didn't happen. What happened off the pitch there was totally unacceptable and gives an entirely incorrect image of the game.

I don't think all players appreciate the increased awareness of rugby among the public. More and more people are following the game, if not as their first love then maybe as their second or third, and players have a role to play in the way that they conduct themselves, on and off the field. Such incidents as those at Brive are highlighted by television and the public will demand action.

The European Rugby Cup Ltd management board has come down heavily on the two clubs but I think we all realise that you don't want players wrapped in cotton wool. Rugby is an exciting, aggressive game and, last weekend particularly, the games between Bath and Brive and Toulouse and Leicester went some way towards repairing the damage. There is pressure, there is a demand to win and the stakes are getting higher, but we need to retain a sense of respect — for referees and for each other as players.

Jenkins keen to restore Ponty's pride

After the shameful scenes in Brive, the spotlight falls on the Lions full back as he leads his team into battle

DAVID HANDS

Colour co-ordinators would have a field day with Neil Jenkins. Fresh from the training field, his pale face flushed a healthy pink with his exertions, but one look at the sandy eyebrows and the ginger hair and there would be a shake of the head — the two simply do not go together.

That day in Durban, Jenkins's face was white, drained. He looked so awful his parents asked if he was ill. It was the day last June that the British Isles were preparing to meet South Africa, one up in the series and history's finger beckoning. "I'd never felt like that before a game," he said. "But when I got out into the atmosphere of King's Park, the crowd singing *Bread of Heaven* and that first kick went over, sweet as a nut, from near halfway — I can't imagine anything better than to win with the Lions, unless you can win another series with them."

Sport builds you up, it lets you down. Three months ago Jenkins was the full back whose unerring kicks earned the Lions a famous 18-15 win. Now he is the captain and fly half of a Pontypridd team upon whom the censorious eye of the rugby world, and many outside the sport, has fallen — Ponty, the homespun club fined this week after an afternoon and a night of violence in Brive that stained the reputation of the sport.

Welshman and Frenchman meet again at Sardis Road this afternoon in the return match in the Heineken Cup, each of them knowing they can afford no repetition — literally in the case of Pontypridd, who have limited financial resources but whose fame rests, in a sense, on what they have not. They have not the wealth, the talented overseas players, the string of internationals but despite that, league and cup honours are theirs.

These are the Welsh champions and proud to be so. But no more proud than the folk in the streets of the town at the mouth of the Rhondda Valley are of Jenkins, one of their own who has gone out into the world, has played 50 times for Wales and has triumphed in that most unforgiving of rugby atmospheres, South Africa. That pride, that togetherness, is part of the reason for the events in Brive.

Jenkins, 26, from Llantwit Fardre ("Just over the hill"), the only son of a scrap-metal dealer, struggled to put it into words: "What happened in Brive was very disappointing. It's never happened to us before and I hope to God it never does again. But what's gone has gone. Our fans who were out there know what happened — they were spat upon, coins thrown at them, one of our boys came down the stand waving a Ponty flag and a Frenchman snatched it from him, broke the pole in half and handed it back."

Pontypridd lost by a single point and found the accusations flying thick and fast when tempers boiled over in a bar later that night. Players and supporters became embroiled and the French legal investigation into the brawl in which the France internationals were injured goes on. Jenkins acknowledges that his club could have been thrown out of the competition, that discipline above all else must be the watchword today.

"We're the type of side that enjoys each other's company after the game," he said. "We're a close side, we've grown up together as a squad, we want to do well together." It is the bonding of a small community for whom rugby represents so much, both historically and in the modern, professional world in which, every day, administrators learn that the old, amateur ways really have departed.

So when Dale McIntosh, the Pontypridd No 8, found himself set upon during the game by five Frenchmen, his mates waded in. "We didn't go there to let ourselves be walked over," Jenkins said. The reverse of that coin is McIntosh and Jenkins, both employed by Just Rentals, sponsors of the club over the past seven years, making a six-hour journey to the bedside of a youngster in hospital to sit with him and talk rugby.

Jenkins is part of the fabric of Welsh valley society. He was the rugby-mad kid playing five-a-side games on the local pitch ("We're Wales tonight and I'm Jonathan Davies"). Jenkins was 13 when Davies made his international debut; 12 years later Davies played his last game for Wales at No 10 with Jenkins behind him at No 15.

School and Jenkins parted company at 15: "I was never a big fan of school and it's something I regret now because it would have been nice to have something to fall back on. I'm just so lucky to have had the rugby — when the letter arrived from the Lions, I had a lump in my throat. When I got back home from South Africa there were banners and balloons in the streets, all over my house. It was brilliant.

GARETH EVERETT

Jenkins, the Pontypridd captain, realises the responsibility his team have to bear today

"If I hadn't been good at sport, I suppose I'd have been with my friends, in and out of work, down the pub or at the snooker. I'd probably have been struggling. But sport has brought me through." Capped at 19, Jenkins was on the dole at 20, his father's business having failed. But Just Rentals employed him and people used to ask if he could be the one to go round with the television set, because Jenkins had played for Wales.

Now he has the security of a job, of a generous contract with Pontypridd and with the Welsh Rugby Union. "It would be nice to finish with a few thousand pounds behind you, perhaps with the mortgage paid off," he said. He and Catherine, his girlfriend of the past seven years, hope to marry next year when he must also renegotiate his club contract and listen once more to the siren voices of rich English clubs who would like to employ Wales's leading points-scorer.

"You have to look after yourself and maybe it will be time to move on," Jenkins, the one-club man, said. "But I don't want to leave Pontypridd, my friends, my family. When I finish I'd like to put something back into the game, maybe as a coach, maybe team manager. Maybe," he says, a touch wistfully, "they can come up with a contract that will keep me here for life."

Cup returns put under scrutiny

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

AFTER the events of the past fortnight, the directors of European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC), organiser of the Heineken Cup, will wipe their brows with relief if they can get through this weekend without incident. They will be among the full house at Sardis Road this afternoon to see if Pontypridd and Brive can keep their minds on rugby, while tomorrow they move on to Stradey Park to watch Llanelli take on Pau.

The threat of financial punishment hangs over the Llanelli game, after their violent clash in Pau a fortnight ago. The ERC board meets on Monday to decide whether sanctions are necessary and they will also pronounce on Dale McIntosh, the Pontypridd No 8 charged with bringing the game into disrepute after being sent off against Brive.

They have already dealt with Tony Rees, the Cardiff lock, cited by Harlequins for a stamping incident involving Gareth Llewellyn last Sunday. Rees has been suspended for 90 days — a month longer than the minimum sentence for his offence. It will be some consolation for Cardiff that Robert Howley returns for his first game at scrum half since dislocating a shoulder against Natal during the British Isles' tour of South Africa.

But the eyes of the game will be on Sardis Road, where a capacity crowd of 8,000 will bay for a Pontypridd victory against the holders, whose reluctance to play the game has simmered since the after-match brawl in a Brive bar that earned rugby so much odium. That brawl still keeps Philippe Carbonneau out of the XV and Christophe Lamaison among the replacements while 11, possibly 12 if Phil John passes a fitness test, of the Pontypridd players who lost 32-31 in injury time resume the contest.

"It's make-or-break for us," Neil Jenkins, the Pontypridd captain, said. "We want an open, fair game of rugby. We realise the importance of the occasion — discipline will be the word at the top of the agenda." Defeat will surely keep the Welsh champions among the tournament's also-rans and, if Cardiff fail in Cork and Swansea do not rediscover some form, Wales might have no representative in the quarter-finals.

By contrast England, with 11 wins out of 12 starts against eight by French clubs, occupy pole position in four pools and Leicester have the opportunity to make up for that one defeat by beating Leinster at Welford Road.

☐ Australia, who play England at Twickenham on November 15, have been forced by injury to omit six leading players from their tour party. Jason Little and Matthew Burke are among the absentees.

Smith profits from trading places

Smith's career has taken off with Wigan

By Christopher Irvine

WHEN a player steps into the shoes of a rugby league legend, comparisons inevitably follow. Tony Smith, Shaun Edwards's replacement at Wigan, cannot have expected an easy ride and when he travels to Old Trafford for the Stones Premiership final against St Helens tomorrow, he will have more than a little in common with another celebrated interloper. For Smith, read Sheringham, for Edwards, Cantona.

However, in five months at Wigan, Smith has leapfrogged Edwards and Bobbie Goulding as prime candidate for the Great Britain No 7 position against Australia in the British Gas series this autumn. It has been an instructive and productive period for someone destined to play second or third fiddle at international level while he remained loyal to Castleford, the club he supported from boyhood.

Smith, 27, submitted his transfer request at Castleford on the same day that Edwards asked to leave Central Park. "It wasn't that I was being tapped up by another club. I needed the challenge," Smith said. "Within a week, I was signing for Wigan and 24 hours later playing in a home derby match against St Helens. Until then, I didn't appreciate what being beaten by Saints meant to Wigan."

The flip side to that initial disappointment was a remarkable 65-12 victory at St Helens in the return Super League match, Wigan's outstanding performance of the season. To those who saw his predecessor as irreplaceable, Smith has regularly provided some eloquent answers.

"I'd be lying if I said that Shaun's legendary status wasn't at the back of my mind when I joined. There's a world of difference between us. He's a chief organiser and a player who sits and waits for the right opportunity, whereas I'm looking to engineer things and be involved at every opportunity. I'd like to think that right now I'm the top scrum half. The way I'm enjoying my rugby, I certainly feel the best."

With Goulding suspended from the St Helens side, Smith has the chance at Old Trafford to cement his status. He plays opposite Sean Long, with whom he had a brief half-back partnership at Wigan, before Long moved to St Helens via Widnes. No one need remind Smith of the importance of adding to his one Yorkshire Cup winner's medal in 1988, set alongside Edwards's 39 medals with Wigan.

The first season Edwards signed for Wigan, 1983-84, was the last that Wigan failed to lift a trophy. It is that pressure that Smith is getting used to. In the important midfield triangle of half back and loose forward, Wigan have the perfect combination in Smith's creative endeavour, Henry Paul's flashes of genius outside him, and Andy Farrell's complementary kicking game. Smith and Farrell have become such a productive combination that there is speculation about switching Farrell, the Britain captain, alongside him at stand-off for the forthcoming international series.

Smith's talents had become buried in a struggling Castleford outfit. He was understudy to Goulding in New Zealand last year and only broke into the England side for the losing 1995 World Cup final against Australia at stand-off, his least preferred position.

"When Eric Hughes [the Wigan coach] signed me, I insisted I wanted the more direct involvement at scrum half," he said. "People kept saying Shaun Edwards this and Shaun Edwards that, but when I won man of the match against him in the London game at Central Park, I think I proved that, different though I am, I can do some worthwhile things myself." Beating St Helens tomorrow would offer no one greater pleasure.

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RACING: QUESTION MARKS HANG OVER SEVERAL OF THE CONTENDERS IN FESTIVAL SHOWPIECE

Revoque ready to solve Ascot puzzle

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

IN THE never ending battle waged in the betting ring, the punter does not enjoy many advantages against the old enemy — save one. While bookmakers have to chalk up odds for every race, backers are not obliged to take advantage of them.

Over a weekend when there is a splendid array of top-class racing — and no shortage of betting opportunities — one of racing's most relevant truisms should be borne in mind when contemplating the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, the feature race of the Ascot Festival.

This afternoon's race, which traditionally determines who is Europe's top miler, is a nightmare for form students because of the uncertainty over which horses are capable of reproducing their best form. At least half of the field is returning to top company after an enforced absence, because of injuries, niggles or sickness.

Will Entrepreneur be back to his best after a 112-day absence, caused by a pulled hamstring suffered when he disappointed in the Derby? The connections of the 2,000 Guineas winner have hardly been exuding confidence in the run up to the race.

Even if the Michael Stoute-trained colt is 100 per cent, can he confirm Newmarket running with Revoque, considered by some to have been unlucky in the Guineas? Peter Chapple-Hyam's runner showed his wellbeing when returning from a long absence to beat Bahhare at Doncaster 15 days ago.

If they are both back to their best, is that form good enough in a year when no three-year-old has beaten the older horses in a group one race beyond a sprint distance? And if they are both a shade ring rusty, which of the "super seconds" that line up today can take advantage?

The answer to the puzzle centres on Entrepreneur. If he is in the form he showed when winning a fast-run Guineas, look no further for the winner. Should he disappoint, Allied Forces, a top group two horse, will be hard to keep out of the frame, but may have to give best to **Revoque.**

Bijou D'Inde, winner of the St James's Palace Stakes here last year, ran better than his finishing position indicated in France recently. The Mark Johnston-trained four-year-old is the only confirmed front-runner in the field and an uncontested lead should see him run particularly well. Air Express has each-way claims, but the rest do not look good enough.

Not for the first time on a showpiece occasion, some of the best bets may be found away from the gaze of the television cameras — notably at Catterick. Since he took over from Jeremy Tree at Beckhampton in 1990, Roger Charlton has sent only five runners to the Yorkshire track. Three have won and the other two were placed, so **Silver Whirl** is a most interesting entry for the John Morgan-Yorkshire Evening Post Handicap (3.10).

After a pleasing debut at Salisbury, the Silver Hawk filly disappointed over today's trip at Leicester, but was subsequently found to be ill. After a break, she ran well enough over an inadequate mile at Sandown before catching the eye in a competitive Newbury handicap nine days ago. With the excellent Jimmy Fortune booked to ride, she can start to repay her $125,000 yearling fee.

The second, fourth and fifth behind Mudeer in a Leicester maiden have all won since, so third-placed **Last Christmas** looks worth supporting in the Knutsford Maiden Stakes at Haydock (2.30).

ED BYRNE

Revoque, left, is fancied for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot today

RETURN OF DETTORI'S MAGNIFICENT SEVEN?

Race 1: KING SOUND (Trained by J Gosden) — ODDS 7-1
Has not yet achieved the form to win this, but lightly raced and open to plenty of improvement. Would send the bookmakers running for cover if giving Dettori a winning start.

Race 2: RUSSIAN REVIVAL (J Gosden) — 7-2
Put up career-best performance when beating Hidden Meadow at Newbury nine days ago. Has plenty of pace, so should have no problems with today's furlong-shorter trip. Major chance.

Race 3: ALLIED FORCES (S bin Suroor) — 9-2
Showed high-class form when trained in the United States last season. Won the Queen Anne Stakes here before returning to America for the Arlington Million, where he failed to stay. Each-way chance.

Race 4: TUMBLEWEED RIDGE (B Meehan) — 14-1
A late, late booking for Dettori but no forlorn hope. Has shown consistently good form in the top handicaps this season, winning the Bunbury Cup at Newmarket in July. Unsuited by being held up in a slowly run race when fourth at Goodwood last time, but is guaranteed the strong pace he needs today.

Race 5: NOISETTE (J Gosden) — 9-2
Slightly disappointing at Doncaster last time, but can be forgiven that as she stumbled leaving the stalls and lost a shoe. Earlier Newmarket win reads well and she may return to form here.

Race 6: ATUF (S bin Suroor) — 3-1
Shaped with promise when sixth of 20 on debut in Kempton maiden. Closely related to several winners and stable in good form. Sound claims in a weak contest.

Race 7: JASEUR (J Gosden) — 7-2
A four-year-old, but has had only five runs. Broke his duck in good style when winning at Bath and should relish today's stamina test. The bookmakers will be taking no chances with this one.

Cumulative odds 294,029-1 — Guide compiled by Robert Wright

Faraway Lass well suited by conditions

TELEVISED RACES THIS WEEKEND

ASCOT
BBC1

2.00: Fahris arguably boasts the best form judged on his all-the-way victory at Goodwood under Ray Cochrane last time. However, that victory, in a slowly-run race, owed much to jockeyship and today's trip may not suit. Ben Hanbury's runner appeared not to stay the distance in the Derby when finishing sixth. **Romanov** was third at Epsom and, despite a disappointing run in France next time, Peter Chapple-Hyam's colt bounced back to his best when winning a group three race at Haydock seven weeks ago (Fahris third). The mercurial Maylane goes from strength to strength and looks the main threat.

2.35: July Cup winners rarely run in this race but Compton Place is out to make up for a disappointing run in the Nunthorpe where trip and ground were against him. However, he will do well to overcome his group one penalty and two runners stand out here. Russian Revival impressed when hardly coming off the bridle to account for Hidden Meadow and Centre Stalls at Newbury nine days ago.

That was over seven furlongs but Frankie Dettori's ride possesses sufficent speed to cope with this shorter trip. The worry is the faster ground, which just tips the balance in favour **Elnadim.** He improved dramatically during the past two months and his listed success at Newmarket last time has been boosted by the second, third and fourth winning since.

3.20: see left.

3.55 After two disappointing efforts because of trip and ground, Waypoint has conditions in her favour and a return to Newbury winning form would see Roger Charlton's filly go close.

Dancing Image has been well backed in the ante-post exchanges this week and must go well. Ian Balding's runner did well in listed company at Epsom last time despite looking ill at ease on the track. A fast-run seven furlongs on this stiff track will be ideal. However, I like the look of **Faraway Lass,** beaten less than a length by Danetime in the Stewards' Cup. She looks well drawn here, unlike last time, and should be suited by seven furlongs on this track.

Richard Evans

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FARAWAY LASS
(3.55 Ascot)
Next best: Silver Whirl
(3.10 Catterick)
Nap: CONSORT
(3.10 Ascot tomorrow)
Next best: Mudeer
(2.00 Ascot tomorrow)

ASCOT TOMORROW
BBC2

2.35: Kilimanjaro was made Derby favourite after routing a previous winner by eight lengths at Sandown. However, conditions will be much faster here. Craigsteel and Teapot Row will both go well over this extra furlong, but the key to this may be the Doncaster maiden in which **City Honours** pounced on Prolix. The latter might have held on if ridden more assertively, but City Honours was very green and only woke up inside the final furlong. Considered Manton's best prospect since Rodrigo De Triano, he can improve significantly.

3.10: Sweet Wilhelmina was sent for home too soon at Newbury last week and, ridden more patiently here, must figure prominently again. Frankie Dettori perseveres with For Your Eyes Only, though unable to settle him when heavily backed at Doncaster last time — a race in which **Cashmere Lady** barely came off the bridle, lucklessly surrounded by a wall of horses. She got stuck in the mud on her previous start, but at Redcar in August she had relished a strong pace to quicken decisively under a confident ride. Consort is interesting, having shaped well when set a couple of inadequate tests, after a late reappearance.

3.50: Midnight Line confirmed herself as tough as she is gifted when winning the May Hill Stakes, looking an ideal type for this, but Kieren Fallon prefers her stablemate, **Jibe,** who has been exciting workwatchers. From the remarkable family of Warning and Commander In Chief, she showed the benefit of her debut to saunter home in a Lingfield maiden. The danger may be Exclusive, a half-sister to Entrepreneur.

4.25: Honourable is a tough sort and would be a legitimate fancy on easier ground. But the potential blot on the handicap is **Ridaiyma,** who had an unusual prep-race — as pacemaker in the Prix Vermeille. Her trainer excels in big handicaps, and she is 3lb better off with Arctic Owl despite beating him a neck at Kempton. Song Of Freedom, Singspiel's half-brother, has been expensive to follow, but has excuses for two recent defeats (poor luck in running and soft ground).

Chris McGrath

ASCOT TODAY

THUNDERER

2.00 Poseidon
2.35 Dazzle
3.20 Air Express
3.50 **WAYPOINT** (nap)
4.30 Noisette
5.00 Astrapi
5.35 Sea Victor

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 **ROMANOV.**

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M STR, LOW NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 CUMBERLAND LODGE STAKES — BBC1
(Group III: £32,150: 1m 4f) (8 runners)

101	(1)	-030035	MONGOL WARRIOR 82 (D,F) (H de Kwiatkowski) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-3	J Weaver	94
102	(5)	21-4012	SALMON LADDER 20 (C,D,F,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 5-9-3	T Quinn	115
103	(2)	0-14103	KINGFISHER MILL 39 (CD,G,S) (H De Walden) Mrs J Cecil 3-8-11	M J Kinane	114
104	(6)	-162331	FAHRIS 14 (F,G) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-8-9	R Hills	113
105	(3)	-U51211	MAYLANE 22 (D,F,G,S) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) A Stewart 3-8-9	M Roberts	117
106	(8)	113331	ROMANOV 49 (F,G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-9	J Reid	126
107	(7)	413-341	KING SOUND 35 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-8-6	L Dettori	108
108	(4)	5014220	POSEIDON 14 (F,G) (Allevamento La Nuova Sbarra SRL) M Channon 3-8-6	S Sanders	116

BETTING: 5-2 Maylane, 4-1 Kingfisher Mill, 9-2 Romanov, 5-1 Fahris, 6-1 King Sound, 16-1 others.

1996: WALL STREET 3-8-6 L Dettori (2-1 fav) S bin Suroor 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Salmon Ladder 3l 2nd to Papering in 1m3f San Siro group III stakes (good). Kingfisher Mill 2¼l 3rd to Stowaway in 1½m York group II stakes (good). Fahris beat Desert Story 6l in group III stakes 1¼m Goodwood (1m 2f, good). Maylane beat Dushyantor 1¾l in 1½m Epsom group III stakes (good). Romanov beat Germano ½l in 1m2½f Haydock group III stakes (good to firm) with Fahris (levels) ½l 3rd. King Sound beat Haltarra neck in 1m3½f Windsor stakes (good to firm) Poseidon 13l 8th to Silver Patriarch in group I stakes at Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good to firm)

KINGFISHER MILL has the form to swiftly thwart hopes of a Frankie Dettori repeat

2.35 RACAL DIADEM STAKES — BBC1
(Group II: £59,430: 6f) (16 runners)

201	(6)	22-2010	COMPTON PLACE 37 (BF,D,F,G) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 3-9-4	S Sanders	105
202	(7)	01100-0	DARING DESTINY 146 (B,D,F,G,S) (Daring Destiny Pins) K Burke 6-9-1	T Sprake	100
203	(2)	4445134	AVERTI 22 (D,F,G,S) (D Deer) W Muir 6-9-0	K Fallon	120
204	(16)	0154410	CRETAN GIFT 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 6-9-0	J Weaver	113
205	(10)	6141040	CYRANO'S LAD 9 (D,F,G) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 8-9-0	M J Kinane	116
206	(12)	1114120	MONAASSIB 22 (D,F,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 6-9-0	D O'Donohoe	121
207	(5)	5251203	MY BEST VALENTINE 17 (BF,F,G,S) (Valentines) V Soane 7-9-0	C Rutter	117
208	(14)	3030035	RAMBLING BEAR 9 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Hill) M Blanshard 4-9-0	M Roberts	111
209	(3)	123-031	RUSSIAN REVIVAL 9 (D,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) J Gosden 4-9-0	L Dettori	118
210	(11)	42-1211	ELNADIM 36 (D,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-12	R Hills	113
211	(8)	12-3060	MUCHEA 9 (D,F,G,S) (Albion Investments) M Channon 3-8-12	T Quinn	106
212	(1)	10-3510	SWIFT GULLIVER 14 (B,F,G,S) (Ballylinch Stud) J Bolger (Ire) 3-8-12	K Manning	89
213	(4)	1141212	TOMBA 22 (D,G,S) (J Good) B Meehan 3-8-12	M Tebbutt	114
214	(9)	202-001	DAME LAURA 57 (D,G) (A Morrison) H Morrison 3-8-9	K Darley	83
215	(15)	2-30162	DAZZLE 16 (C,D,F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 3-8-9	J Reid	102
216	(13)	21-34	LOCHANGEL 14 (CD,F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-8-9	R Cochrane	119

BETTING: 7-2 Compton Place, 9-2 Russian Revival, 6-1 Elnadim, 7-1 Tomba, 8-1 Averti, Dazzle, 12-1 Rambling Bear, 14-1 others.

1996: DIFFIDENT 4-9-0 L Dettori (12-1) S bin Suroor 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Cretan Gift 8¼l 20th to Wildwood Flower in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft) My Best Valentine ¾l 3rd to Dashing Blue in 5½f Doncaster handicap (good to firm) Rambling Bear 3½l 5th to Eveningperformance in 5f Newbury listed stakes (good to firm) with Cyrano's Lad (levels) 11l 13th. Russian Revival beat Hidden Meadow ¾l in 7f Newbury listed stakes (good to firm) with Muchea (1lb worse off) 10l 8th. Elnadim beat Bollin Joanne 1¼l in 6f Newmarket listed stakes (good). Tomba 1¾l 2nd to Royal Applause in 6f Haydock group I stakes (good to soft) with Averti (levels) 3l 4th, Muchea (levels) 8½l 6th and Monaassib (levels) 15l 7th. Dame Laura beat Conspiracy 1½l in 6f Newmarket fillies stakes (good) Dazzle neck 2nd to Aunty Jane in 7f Doncaster fillies listed stakes (good to firm). Lochangel 1l 4th to Wildwood Flower in 6f Goodwood handicap (good to soft)

ELNADIM is improving fast and can justify a step up in class

3.20 QUEEN ELIZABETH II STAKES — BBC1
(Group I: £187,840: 1m rnd) (9 runners)

301	(6)	11-1436	ALLIED FORCES 34 (CD,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-1	L Dettori	120
302	(5)	236-480	BIJOU D'INDE 20 (CD,F,G) (J Morrison) M Johnston 4-9-1	J Weaver	103
303	(1)	0-01323	CENTRE STALLS 8 (D,F,G,S) (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-1	T Quinn	127
304	(7)	3-41120	AIR EXPRESS 59 (D,F,G,S) (M Obaida) C Brittain 3-8-11	O Peslier	138
305	(4)	111-2	BAHHARE 15 (BF,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-11	R Hills	104
306	(2)	411-14	ENTREPRENEUR 112 (BF,D,F,G) (M Tabor) M Stoute 3-8-11	M J Kinane	134
307	(8)	11251	FAITHFUL SON 15 (D,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-11	K Fallon	128
308	(3)	11-2261	REVOQUE 15 (C,D,F,G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-11	J Reid	131
309	(9)	-101620	REBECCA SHARP 20 (CD,F,G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-8-8	M Hills	128

BETTING: 9-4 Entrepreneur, Revoque, 9-2 Allied Forces, 6-1 Bahhare, 10-1 Centre Stalls, 12-1 Air Express, 25-1 Bijou D'Inde, 33-1 others.

1996: MARK OF ESTEEM 3-8-11 L Dettori (100-30) S bin Suroor 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Allied Forces 4¾l 6th to Marlin in 1¼m Arlington group I stakes (good to soft). Centre Stalls 3¼l 3rd to Russian Revival in 7f Newbury listed stakes (good to firm) Entrepreneur 8¾l 4th to Benny The Dip in 1½m Epsom Derby (good) Faithful Son beat Alezal 1¼l in 1¼m Doncaster stakes (good) Revoque beat Bahhare (levels) 1¼l in 1m Doncaster stakes (good). Rebecca Sharp 7¼l 7th to Spinning World in 1m Longchamp group I (good) with Bijou D'Inde (1lb better) 15l 8th

FAITHFUL SON, unbeaten on galloping tracks, can spring a surprise

3.55 TOTE FESTIVAL HANDICAP — BBC1
(£50,005: 7f) (25 runners)

401	(10)	5304331	RUSSIAN MUSIC 14 (D,F) (Seventh Heaven) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-12 (5ex)	K Fallon	110
402	(3)	4-21020	TREGARON 37 (CD,F) (D Hefin Jones) R Akehurst 6-9-10	T Quinn	96
403	(16)	2013004	TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 14 (B,D,F,G,S) (Sun Punters Club) B Meehan 4-9-10	L Dettori	102
404	(15)	0201016	NEUWEST 9 (D,F,G) (P Green) R Akehurst 5-9-9	S Sanders	100
405	(8)	0636160	OMAHA CITY 9 (D,F,G) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 3-9-9	R Ffrench (3)	94
406	(12)	-360020	EMERGING MARKET 7 (C,F) (P Wroughton) J Dunlop 5-9-5	K Darley	106
407	(4)	-040025	CRUMPTON HILL 37 (D,F,G) (T Chadney) N Graham 5-9-1	M Roberts	106
408	(20)	20-6245	SPEEDBALL 14 (V,F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-9-0	J Reid	86
409	(2)	0071106	JO MELL 14 (D,G,S) (C Newton Jnr Ltd) T Easterby 4-9-0	O Peslier	117
410	(19)	-246134	DANCING IMAGE 22 (D,F,G) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 4-9-0	M J Kinane	111
411	(17)	5620000	CHICKAWICKA 7 (D,G,S) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 6-8-12	Dane O'Neill	102
412	(18)	2312100	WAYPOINT 23 (D,F) (R Richards) R Charlton 4-8-11	T Sprake	118
413	(11)	31-3100	COSMIC PRINCE 49 (D,F,G) (Cosmic Plans) M Jarvis 3-8-11	R Cochrane	90
414	(7)	0060330	KAYVEE 33 (BF,C,D,F,G,S) (J Richmond-Watson) Mrs A Perrett 8-8-7	A Clark	112
415	(5)	1-04145	FARAWAY LASS 35 (BF,F,G) (J Rose) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-6	—	113
416	(22)	0121022	NO EXTRAS 14 (BF,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 7-8-6	J Quinn	119
417	(25)	0324335	VOLLEY 16 (F) (R Villers) D Chappell 4-8-5	R Hills	101
418	(9)	1260324	FLAMBOYANCE 16 (D) (Dr C Wills) J Fanshawe 3-8-4	M Hills	111
419	(6)	0222100	PRESENT GENERATION 18 (D,G) (S Lury) R Guest 4-8-1	—	112
420	(1)	3235042	JUST NICK 28 (S) (D Clarke) W Muir 3-8-1	Martin Dwyer	108
421	(21)	6512620	RETURN OF AMIN 7 (D,S) (Sheikh A Dahlawi) J Bethell 3-8-1	C Rutter	106
422	(24)	4-1261	YOUNG PRECEDENT 42 (D,F) (Pendley Knights) P Harris 3-8-1	G Bardwell	110
423	(13)	0411113	SAFIO 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Clayton) A Bailey 4-8-1 (5ex)	D Wright	114
424	(23)	1100025	PHILISTAR 7 (F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 4-7-11	R Mullen (5)	115
425	(14)	21-0000	URSA MAJOR 14 (K Blake) P Kelleway 3-7-10	—	96

Long handicap: Russian Music 9-10, Ursa Major 7-6

BETTING: 6-1 No Extras, 7-1 Dancing Image, 10-1 Safio, 12-1 Neuwest, Crumpton Hill, Waypoint, Faraway Lass, 14-1 others.

1996: DECORATED HERO 4-9-13 L Dettori (7-1) J Gosden 26 ran

FORM FOCUS Russian Music beat Hawait ½l in 1m Doncaster handicap (good to with Jo Mell (5lb better off) 4¾l 6th. Tregaron 12l 8th to Hidden Meadow in 7f York listed stakes (good). Tumbleweed Ridge 2¼l 4th to Law Commission in 7f Goodwood handicap (good) with Speedball (1lb worse off) 3¼l 5th and Ursa Major (11lb better off) 3½l 7th. Neuwest 5l 6th to Russian Revival in 7f Newbury listed stakes (7f, good to firm) with Omaha City (3lb worse off) 16l 10th. Dancing Image 3½l 4th to Intikhab in 1m½f Epsom listed stakes (good) with Omaha City (15lb worse off) 13l 6th. Chickawicka 4¾l 10th to Wildwood Flower in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft) with Emerging Market (levels) 6½l 14th. Waypoint 7¾l 9th to La Modiste in 7f Salisbury fillies handicap (good to soft) Kayvee 8¼l 7th to Present Situation in 1m½f Epsom handicap (good to soft). No Extras sh hd 2nd to Wildwood Flower in 6f Goodwood handicap (good to soft) Flamboyance ¾l 4th to Aunty Jane in 7f Doncaster fillies listed stakes (good to firm) Present Generation 18l 16th to Saley Ana in 7f Lingfield handicap (good) Just Nick 1l 2nd to Shawm in 1m Sandown handicap (good to soft). Return Of Amin 10l 21st to Perryston View in 6f Ayr handicap (good to soft) Young Precedent beat Law Commission neck in 7f Newbury handicap (good to firm) with Kayvee (4lb better off) ½l 3rd and Just Nick (2lb better off) 1¾l 4th. Safio 1¼l 3rd to Solar Storm in 1m Ayr handicap (good to soft) with Philistar (3lb better off) 2½l 5th

TUMBLEWEED RIDGE is fairly treated and may give Dettori fans a lift

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 — B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider. B — brought down S — slipped up R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers V — visor. H — hood E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

4.30 ROSEMARY RATED HANDICAP
(Listed race: £18,137: 1m str) (13 runners)

501	(13)	0022300	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 16 (C,F) (Mrs H Conroy) M Johnston 4-9-7	J Weaver	100
502	(9)	3-32002	DANCING DROP 14 (F,G) (M Suhail) R Hannon 3-9-4	Dane O'Neill	96
503	(11)	0-10100	NOISETTE 16 (BF,CD,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-9-3	L Dettori	95
504	(3)	1335	KENMIST 45 (S) (Dr U Fasanotti) L Cumani 3-9-0	K Darley	108
505	(8)	46-2650	TSARNISTA 77 (G) (I Stewart-Brown) J Dunlop 4-8-11	M Roberts	97
506	(7)	0131012	QUEENS CONSUL 14 (D,F,G,S) (Miss H Dawson) B Rothwell 7-8-9	M Fenton	113
507	(1)	0330515	POMONA 14 (D,F,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 4-8-8	M J Kinane	115
508	(4)	5051035	DIVINA LUNA 41 (D,F,G) (D Deer) J Hills 4-8-7	M Hills	107
509	(2)	1-22004	PRIENA 16 (B,BF,F) (Cuadra Africa) D Loder 3-8-4	R Cochrane	115
510	(12)	101	IRISH LIGHT 10 (D,F,S) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 3-8-4	T Quinn	98
511	(5)	4211430	WOODBECK 33 (F,S) (B Farr) J Glover 3-8-3	N Day	107
512	(6)	1311550	MARA RIVER 28 (D,F,G) (N Harris) I Balding 3-8-3	Martin Dwyer	112
513	(10)	40-6060	BLANE WATER 16 (G) (C I T Racing Ltd) J Fanshawe 3-8-3	T Sprake	96

BETTING: 9-2 Noisette, 11-2 Irish Light, 13-2 Queens Consul, 7-1 Kenmist, 8-1 Dancing Drop, 10-1 others

1996: FATEFULLY 3-9-0 L Dettori (7-4 fav) S bin Suroor 19 ran

5.00 BLUE SEAL CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £11,964: 6f) (8 runners)

601	(1)	01	POLY BLUE 7 (D,F) (Sheet & Roll Convertors Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 8-11	T Quinn	103
602	(8)		ASTRAPI (A Christodoulou) M Stoute 8-8	J Reid	-
603	(4)	6	ATUF 17 (BF) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-8	L Dettori	80+
604	(5)	3	MARIE LOUP 10 (R Smith) L Cumani 8-8	K Fallon	87+
605	(6)	2	NIKI 10 (G Strawbridge) J Gosden 8-8	—	81
606	(3)		SHFOUG (H Salem) B Hills 8-8	M Hills	-
607	(2)		TABASCO (M Myers) M Channon 8-8	M J Kinane	-
608	(7)	6	WENDA 22 (B Voak) C Brittain 8-8	O Peslier	75

BETTING: 3-1 Atuf, 7-2 Astrapi, 4-1 Marie Loup, 9-2 Poly Blue, 6-1 Niki, 10-1 Shfoug, 14-1 others

1996: LOCHANGEL 8-8 L Dettori (5-4 jt fav) I Balding 5 ran

5.35 MAGNIFICENT SEVEN GORDON CARTER HANDICAP
(£14,590: 2m 45yd) (14 runners)

1	(1)	-054021	RENZO 6 (F,G) (K Buchanan) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-10	A Clark	93
2	(2)	04-0010	WHITECHAPEL 84 (C,G,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9-9-6	K Fallon	82
3	(3)	0410230	STAR RAGE 9 (D,F,G) (J Abell) M Johnston 7-9-6	J Weaver	81
4	(13)	5-00004	STORY LINE 28 (C,S) (Story Line Partnership) D Arbuthnot 4-9-4	T Quinn	94
5	(7)	0-142	SHAHRUR 104J (S) (Mrs E Kennan) G L Moore 4-8-13	—	-
6	(9)	2-46552	SEA VICTOR 6 (BF,D,F,G) (J Abell) J L Harris 5-8-12	O Peslier	94
7	(11)	-421244	THORNBY PARK 35 (S) (Appleby Lodge Stud) J Dunlop 3-8-12	T Sprake	95
8	(12)	4-5051	JASEUR 19 (V,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-8-12	L Dettori	95
9	(14)	-420260	PIKE CREEK 17 (F) (R & Exors Late E Hitchins) I Balding 4-8-8	Martin Dwyer	128
10	(5)	4200122	GALAPINO 10 (F) (Glendale Pins Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-7	R Mullen (5)	91
11	(6)	2031535	TAWAFEK 52 (F) (T Shepherd) S Dow 4-8-6	R Perham	88
12	(4)	0033115	PRINCESS TOPAZ 35 (F,G) (S Crown) C Cyzer 3-8-3	R Ffrench (3)	97
13	(10)	0153000	SHINING DANCER 45 (D,F,G) (Lalenaha Partnership) S Dow 5-7-12	J Quinn	104
14	(8)	40/0	HE KNOWS THE RULES 12J (J Henwood) R Buckler 5-7-10	N Adams	71+

BETTING: 7-2 Jaseur, 9-2 Thornby Park, 7-1 Renzo, 8-1 Galapino, Princess Topaz, 9-1 Whitechapel, 12-1 others

1996: FUJIYAMA CREST 4-9-10 L Dettori (2-1 fav) M Stoute 18 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	15	54	27.8	M Kinane	27	160	16.9
G Wragg	11	51	21.6	L Dettori	37	238	15.5
R Akehurst	17	94	18.1	T Quinn	29	200	14.5
J Dunlop	27	153	17.6	O Peslier	5	36	13.9
Mrs J Cecil	4	25	16.0	J Reid	28	240	11.7

ASCOT TOMORROW

THUNDERER

2.00 Mudeer
2.35 Muhtathir
3.10 Cashmere Lady
3.50 Jibe
4.25 **ELBAAHA** (nap)
5.00 Blessingindisguise
5.35 Graceful Lass

Timekeeper's top rating: 5.35 **PUCE.**

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW. 5F-1M STR, LOW NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 SUNDAY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £12,022: 7f) (7 runners)

101	(3)	1	ABSOLUTLY SPARKLIN 25 (D,S) (M Dawson) L Cumani 9-0	K Darley	94
102	(1)	1	CASINO KING 17 (D,G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	96
103	(7)	1	MUDEER 19 (D,F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0	L Dettori	107
104	(2)		GHALI (S Khaled) J Dunlop 8-11	T Quinn	-
105	(6)		PEGNITZ (B Vitali) C Brittain 8-11	M Roberts	-
106	(4)	3	SHERGANZAR 34 (A Schoenau) M Salaman 8-11	M J Kinane	97
107	(5)		MIZOG (Custom Racing) J Long 8-6	T G McLaughlin	-

BETTING: 5-4 Mudeer, 2-1 Absolutly Sparklin, 4-1 Casino King, 14-1 Ghali, Sherganzar, 25-1 Pegnitz, 66-1 Mizog.

1996: KAHAL 8-11 R Hills (9-2) E Dunlop 11 ran

2.35 GTECH ROYAL LODGE STAKES — BBC2
(Group II: 2-Y-O: £74,028: 1m rnd) (8 runners)

201	(8)	112	ALMUTAWAKEL 16 (BF,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-11	L Dettori	125
202	(1)	41	CITY HONOURS 16 (D,F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	121
203	(6)	21	CRAIGSTEEL 82 (G) (Sir David Wills) H Cecil 8-11	K Fallon	118
204	(2)	41	KILIMANJARO 29 (D,S) (M Tabor, Mrs Magnier) M Stoute 8-11	M J Kinane	124
205	(7)	6112	MUHTATHIR 14 (G,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden 8-11	R Hills	135
206	(3)	22	PROLIX 16 (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-11	M Hills	118
207	(5)	124	SHARP PLAY 30 (G) (Mrs I Bird) M Johnston 8-11	D Holland	124
208	(4)	141	TEAPOT ROW 18 (F,G) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 8-11	S Sanders	131

BETTING: 2-1 Kilimanjaro, 3-1 Muhtathir, 6-1 Craigsteel, 7-1 Almutawakel, 8-1 City Honours, 10-1 Sharp Play, 14-1 Prolix, Teapot Row.

1996: BENNY THE DIP 8-11 W R Swinburn (9-4 fav) J Gosden 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Almutawakel 1l 2nd to Alboostan in 1m listed Goodwood stakes (good) City Honours beat Prolix (levels) sh hd in 1m Doncaster maiden (good to firm) Craigsteel beat Victory Note 2½l in 7f Newmarket maiden (good) Kilimanjaro beat Abuhail 8l in 1m Sandown stakes (soft) Muhtathir 2½l 2nd to Second Empire in 1m group III Longchamp stakes (soft) Teapot Row beat Gulland neck in 7f Doncaster stakes (good to firm)

MUHTATHIR ran well in France and is preferred to Kilimanjaro

3.10 THE MAIL ON SUNDAY MILE FINAL — BBC2
(Handicap: £29,570: 1m str) (23 runners)

301	(13)	0066221	LAW COMMISSION 15 (C,F,G) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 7-10-0	T Quinn	96
302	(6)	-231640	BRILLIANT RED 36 (D,F) (Mrs M George) P Hedger 4-9-7	K Darley	104
303	(11)	3504-44	CONSORT 42 (F) (Mrs S Whitehead) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-0	M J Kinane	106
304	(21)	0012213	LA MODISTE 6 (BF,D,F,S) ([illegible]) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-0	K Fallon	112
305	(16)	03122	SPECULATOR 49 (B,D,S) (Highclere Racing Ltd) W Haggas 3-9-0	M Hills	100
306	(9)	1222410	THERHEA 8 (D,G,S) ([illegible]) B Meehan 4-8-13	A Whelan (3)	109
307	(22)	1300636	FAHS 15 (G) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) R Akehurst 5-8-8	D Holland	112
308	(2)	0306230	FOR YOUR EYES ONLY 15 (BF,F,G) (R Griffiths) T Easterby 3-8-7	L Dettori	98
309	(23)	1204100	CASHMERE LADY 15 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Howe) J Eyre 5-8-7	R Lappin	111
310	(18)	3102000	PRIDE OF PENDLE 8 (D,F,G,S) ([illegible]) [illegible] 8-8-6	Martin Dwyer	99
311	(10)	6040120	GULF SHAADI 15 (D,F) (Bobby Halliday Partnership) E Alston 5-8-6	S Sanders	105
312	(3)	1012402	SWEET WILHELMINA 8 (D,G) (C van Hoorn) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-4	M Roberts	112
313	(17)	0060024	REBEL COUNTY 8 (V,D,F,G,S) (Shoofree Ice Cream) A Bailey 4-8-4	R Ffrench (3)	101
314	(12)	1330005	BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 8 (CD,F,G) (R Morton) B Millman 8-8-3	M Fenton	110
315	(7)	1045000	ZUGUDI 12 (B,F) (Sheikh A Al Sabah) K Mahdi 3-8-2	C Lowther (5)	100
316	(1)	0305020	BLUE FLYER 11 (B,D,F) (B Scott) R Ingram 4-7-13	A Mackay	110
317	(4)	-133000	MO-ADDAB 8 (CD,F,G,S) (S Hammond) A Stewart 7-7-13	P Fessey (3)	112
318	(8)	-104160	PRESENT SITUATION 8 (D,F,S) (Lord Huntingdon) Lord Huntingdon 6-7-12	Aimee Cook (5)	101
319	(14)	4531210	ANTARCTIC STORM 15 (D,F,G) (Northumbria Leisure) R Fahey 4-7-12	R Winston (7)	91
320	(15)	0132503	COMANCHE COMPANION 14 (D,F,G,S) (Hever BC) T Naughton 7-7-11	J Lowe	96
321	(20)	5013520	ANONYM 46 (B,D,F,G) (Wetherby Racing Bureau 23) J Eyre 5-7-10	T Williams	101
322	(19)	0-04000	PRESS ON NICKY 72 (F) (G.M.P Syndicate) W Muir 4-7-10	Iona Wands (5)	90
323	(5)	0000500	DANCES WITH HOOVES 11 ([illegible]) D Ffrench Davis 5-7-10	N Carlisle	90

Long handicap: Anonym 7-8, Press On Nicky 7-8, Dances With Hooves 7-0

BETTING: 6-1 Speculator, 7-1 For Your Eyes Only, 8-1 La Modiste, Sweet Wilhelmina, 9-1 Law Commission, 10-1 Therhea, Fahs, 12-1 others

1996: AMRAK AJEEB 4-10-0 M Fenton (33-1) B Hanbury 25 ran

FORM FOCUS Law Commission beat Dancing Drop 1l in 7f Goodwood handicap (good). La Modiste beat Parrot Jungle 2½l in 1m Bath handicap (hard) Speculator 1¾l 2nd to Fionn De Cool in 1m ½f Epsom handicap (good) with Present Situation (1lb worse off) 3¼l 4th and Comanche Companion (4lb better off) 4½l 5th. Fahs 2¾l 6th to Intikhab in 1¼m Doncaster handicap (good to firm) with Rebel County (2lb worse off) 22l 15th. Sweet Wilhelmina neck 2nd to Prince Of Denial in 1m Newbury handicap (good to firm) with La Modiste (2lb better off) 1½l 3rd. Broughtons Turmoil (4lb better off) 3¼l 5th. Therhea (4lb better off) 4l 7th. Mo-Addab (7lb better off) 15l 16th

SWEET WILHELMINA can confirm Newbury superiority over La Modiste

3.50 FILLIES MILE — BBC2
(Group I: 2-Y-O: £92,950: 1m rnd) (8 runners)

401	(5)	22	ALIGNMENT 37 (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 8-10	T Quinn	102
402	(6)	1	EXCLUSIVE 18 (G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-10	M J Kinane	105
403	(1)	210	EXPECT TO SHINE 38 (F) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-10	M Hills	113
404	(3)	6410360	FILEY BRIGG 9 (F,S) (Dreadnought Racing) W Kemp 8-10	K Darley	125
405	(4)	13	GLOROSIA 17 (F) (P Smith) L Cumani 8-10	L Dettori	107
406	(2)	2	HOLLOW HAZE 9 (BF) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-10	J Reid	105
407	(7)	41	JIBE 18 (G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-10	K Fallon	97
408	(8)	5111	MIDNIGHT LINE 17 (D,F) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) H Cecil 8-10	W Ryan	138

BETTING: 5-2 Midnight Line, 3-1 Jibe, 4-1 Glorosia, 5-1 Alignment, 10-1 Exclusive, Hollow Haze, 14-1 others.

1996: REAMS OF VERSE 8-10 M J Kinane (5-1) H Cecil 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Alignment sh hd 2nd to Midnight Line in 7f Goodwood group III (good to firm) with Filey Brigg 14l last. Exclusive beat Celtic Cross 1¾l in 7f Kempton stakes (good) Hollow Haze 1½l 2nd to Arrabel in 7f Newbury stakes (soft) Jibe beat Wicsa 4l in 7f Lingfield maiden (good) Midnight Line beat Flawless ½l in 1m Doncaster group III (good to firm) with Glorosia (5lb worse off) 3½l 3rd

MIDNIGHT LINE can make experience tell against stable companion Jibe

4.25 TOTE SUNDAY SPECIAL HANDICAP — BBC2
(£47,551: 1m 4f) (14 runners)

501	(9)	2-21204	TAUFAN'S MELODY 29 (CD,F,G,S) (All At Sea) Lady Herries 6-9-10	J Reid	99
502	(5)	00-0640	BETTER OFFER 39 (CD,F,G) (Lady Harrison) Mrs A Perrett 5-9-1	M J Kinane	106
503	(11)	51-0320	WILLIE CONQUER 39 (D,F) (R Tooth) R Akehurst 5-9-0	T Quinn	110
504	(2)	3360611	ROKEBY BOWL 43 (D,F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-9-0	L Dettori	103
505	(10)	0250120	TYKEYVOR 18 (V,CD,F,S) (Lady Herries) Lady Herries 7-8-12	F Lynch	111
506	(1)	62/563-	ARCTIC THUNDER 458 (D,F,G,S) (Merthyr Auctions) B Palling 6-8-12	S Sanders	105
507	(12)	3116	RIDAIYMA 14 (D,F,G) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 3-8-4	K Darley	96+
508	(3)	1421	ARCTIC OWL 24 (D,G,S) (Owl Society) J Fanshawe 3-8-4	N Day	110
509	(14)	3-63221	TAUNT 81 (D,S) (Lord Hartington) D Morley 3-8-3	D Holland	116
510	(7)	2355366	REMAADI SUN 16 (D,F) (T Barker) M Usher 5-8-3	R Street	125
511	(8)	213210	HONOURABLE 24 (D,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Watts 3-8-2	R Ffrench (3)	114
512	(6)	-215105	SONG OF FREEDOM 15 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-8-1	T Williams	-
513	(4)	2601040	AL'S ALIBI 8 (D,G,S) (Sussex Stud Ltd) W Muir 4-7-10	Martin Dwyer	93
514	(13)	-444122	ELBAAHA 16 (F) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Jarvis 3-7-10	P Fessey (3)	126

BETTING: 7-2 Ridaiyma, 7-1 Rokeby Bowl, Song Of Freedom, 8-1 Arctic Owl, Honourable, Elbaaha, 10-1 Better Offer, Taunt, 12-1 others

1996: BETTER OFFER 4-9-6 M J Kinane (9-1) G Harwood 20 ran

FORM FOCUS Taufan's Melody 2l 4th to Further Flight in 1m 5½f Chester handicap (soft). Better Offer 21l 14th to Far Ahead in 1m 5½f York handicap (good) with Taufan's Melody (3lb worse off) 31l 15th and Willie Conquer (5lb worse off) 40l 19th. Rokeby Bowl beat Tykeyvor (2lb better off) 1¼l in 1½m Newbury stakes (good to firm) Arctic Thunder 6l 3rd to Lord Jim in 1¾m Salisbury stakes (good to firm) Ridaiyma 8¼l 6th to Queen Maud in 1½m group 1 Longchamp stakes (soft) Arctic Owl dead-heated with Honourable (4lb better off) in 1m 3½f York handicap (soft) Taunt beat Such Boldness 4l in 1½m Epsom maiden (good to soft). Song Of Freedom 2½l 5th to Infatuation in 1¼m Doncaster handicap (good to firm) Elbaaha 1¼l 2nd to Dantesque in 1½m Doncaster handicap (good) with Remaadi Sun (1lb better off) 5½l 6th.

TAUNT, a good winner at Epsom, gets the vote over Honourable

5.00 CLIVEDEN RUINART CHAMPAGNE RATED HANDICAP
(£15,564: 5f) (12 runners)

601	(8)	1061650	TEDBURROW 8 (D,F,S) (P Davies) E Alston 5-9-7	K Fallon	103
602	(9)	155-103	SUPERIOR PREMIUM 8 (D,S) (J Parsons) R Fahey 3-9-4	J Carroll	113
603	(6)	-213140	MOON STRIKE 10 (D,F,G,S) (A Foustok) P Howling 7-9-0	L Dettori	111
604	(11)	2404050	JAYANNPEE 25 (D,F,G) (Exors late J Pascucci) I Balding 6-8-13	Martin Dwyer	116
605	(5)	1113300	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 8 (B,CD,F,G) (A Backhouse) M W Easterby 4-8-12	M J Kinane	120
606	(10)	6600000	SYLVA PARADISE 10 (F,S) ([illegible]) C Brittain 4-8-11	M Roberts	105
607	(1)	5362000	CROWDED AVENUE 50 (D,F,G) (T Wallard) P Makin 5-8-11	S Sanders	106
608	(7)	4304000	HELLO MISTER 15 (D,F,G,S) (B Milton) T Powell 6-8-10	P McCabe (3)	108
609	(12)	1340620	SHARP HAT 8 (F,G,S) (J Smith) R Hannon 3-8-8	R Ffrench (3)	108
610	(3)	6123030	TWICE AS SHARP 18 (D,F,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 5-8-7	C Lowther (5)	116
611	(4)	1011400	BOWDEN ROSE 18 (B,D,F,G) (C Bailey & N Hall) M Blanshard 5-8-7	D Sweeney (3)	111
612	(2)	0620510	RUDI'S PET 8 (B,D,G,S) (Broadgate Partnership) R Hannon 3-8-6	J Reid	117

Long handicap: Bowden Rose 8-5, Rudi's Pet 8-5

BETTING: 9-2 Blessingindisguise, 6-1 Moon Strike, 7-1 Twice As Sharp, 8-1 Tedburrow, Crowded Avenue, Sharp Hat, Rudi's Pet, 10-1 others

1996: BOLSHOI 4-8-7 Emma O'Gorman (11-1) J Berry 17 ran

5.35 HARVEST STAKES
(Listed race: £24,168: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1	(1)	1-52233	PUCE 18 (D,G) (Fittocks Stud Ltd) L Cumani 4-9-0	L Dettori	119
2	(4)	-022030	ATTITRE 39 (V,F) (R Pledger) C Brittain 3-8-6	M Roberts	105
3	(2)	3-2413	CORETTA 34 (G) (G Leigh) L Cumani 3-8-6	M Hills	96
4	(5)	3-23421	DELILAH 25 (V,S) (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) M Stoute 3-8-6	J Reid	103
5	(3)	5-62116	GRACEFUL LASS 38 (D,F,S) (A Budgett) D Loder 3-8-6	T Quinn	107
6	(6)	41-26	TEMPTING PROSPECT 101 (S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-6	K Darley	93

BETTING: 2-1 Delilah, 3-1 Puce, 4-1 Graceful Lass, 6-1 Attitre, 8-1 Coretta, 10-1 Tempting Prospect

1996: ALTAMURA 3-8-9 L Dettori (13-2) J Gosden 10 ran

TOMORROW'S OTHER MEETINGS: Nottingham (first race, 3.00), Brighton (2.30).

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Bath (first race, 2.00), Hamilton Park (2.20), Exeter (2.10).

TUESDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.25), Sedgefield (2.15)

WEDNESDAY: Brighton (2.20), Newcastle (2.10), Salisbury (2.00)

THURSDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.30), Hereford (1.45), Taunton (2.15)

FRIDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Lingfield Park (1.55), Hexham (2.15).

SATURDAY: Newmarket (C4, 1.50), Nottingham (2.15), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Chepstow (BBC, 2.05), Uttoxeter (2.30)

SUNDAY: Leicester (2.30), Kelso (2.20), Wincanton (2.10).

Flat meetings in bold

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هدية من الاهرام

A year after his astonishing feat at Ascot, Frankie Dettori is feeling the pressure to keep up his standards

Charming? Ruthless

We have all heard enough about the charm of Frankie Dettori. So let us talk instead about his ruthlessness. Yes, the backlash has already set in. And those who wish to attack Dettori can talk about this quality of ruthlessness until they are blue in the face: because it is all true.

"An increasingly surly countenance and tetchy behaviour," according to one report. A jockey, Michael Roberts, the 1992 champion, has been quoted as saying that Dettori is losing patience with his race riding, going for non-existent gaps. The pressures of attempting to win his third jockeys' champion ship, the pressures of his year-old superstar status, is too much for him.

There he was at Ascot on Monday, doing his PR stuff for the racecourse and the Festival of British Racing: for today is the anniversary of his flying leap, when he took off as a famous jockey and landed as a famous man. He did this by riding all seven winners in an afternoon, one that just happens to be the richest of the racing year. It was a phenomenal occasion, a phenomenal achievement: and Dettori's delight delighted the nation. And not too surly and tetchy on Monday, either: instead distributing several zillion volts of Italianate charm, making jokes, doing the same interview again and again for radio and television, obligingly posing for the photo-opportunity, riding a donkey in the winner's enclosure, and even managing to perform his trademark flying dismount from the obliging beast. The charm is there, unforced and in bucketloads: and even those hardened to the phenomenon were won over once again.

Which is odd. It is hard for a Flat race jockey to be loved. The top men in the profession are in the main difficult, unquiet men. To the traditional small man's crankiness they add something of the equestrian's traditional arrogance. To be a success means to ride winner after winner after winner: to make your mark in the profession you must, simply enough, win more races than anyone else. A seller at Catterick, the Derby: one point each.

Thus your appetite for winning must be insatiable. Add to this the extraordinary physical exertions of the job and the need for permanent self-starving, and you tend to find spikey, sour, difficult individuals. Willie Carson always had a cheerful face: but the maniac's cackle did not speak of a quiet nature.

Dettori has been champion jockey twice. There is no argument: he is ruthless. Part of wanting to win is making other people lose: and a champion jockey must make people lose again and again. If a jockey is *not ruthless*, he is unemployable. Ruthless champion jockey: a double tautology. People who see only the happy-go-lucky Frankie are simply not concentrating. Dettori is as happy-go-lucky as the men who cut diamonds for a living.

But perhaps one can trace a touch of the Dominic Cork syndrome. Cork seemed born to be a superstar in cricket, the man to follow where Ian Botham led. But he was overwhelmed by his own achievement: never truly recovered from his hat-trick against West Indies, a performance as newsworthy on its day as Frankie's Magnificent Seven. And it is true that Dettori has found more trouble than usual this season, acquiring in the past month bans of five and then six days for irresponsible riding as he sought too desperately to make up lost ground in the jockeys' championship. It is natural to wonder if the ruthless streak is becoming counterproductive.

There is ample evidence of ruthlessness in his pedigree, on the side of the sire. His father, Gianfranco Dettori, was champion jockey of Italy 13 times. He once rode six winners on three successive days. He was single-minded to the point of obsession and beyond. His mother left his father when he was aged one.

Dettori *padre* was to become a kind of tennis parent, thrusting his son forward to compensate for things he never achieved himself. He was successful enough, but he was determined that his son should be still better. "I remember as a child sitting outside the house, where my father had rigged up reins to the side of a well. I would sit there for hours while my father showed me how to change hands and pull the stick through."

His father never quite made that small, colossal step that separates very good from excellent. Frankie set out to conquer the world, working first with Luca Cumani, an Italian training in Newmarket. "Very focused," Cumani said. "Focused on the winning post. He can see the winning post from a long, long way."

The art of riding a horse is a two-way communication between horse and rider. Cumani is convinced that Dettori's great gift is that he can pass on that urge for victory to his horses. It makes a kind of sense. Horses are herd animals, and like to establish a dominance hierarchy. A race is a temporary herd, and horses compete to be in front.

Dettori's desire to be the dominant person in his group must transmit to the horse: and perhaps, as Cumani suggests, give added confidence, added self-belief. "A very competitive person. But his great talent is that he can switch it on and off. When he's not racing he is very laid back."

John Gosden, for whom Dettori has ridden many winners, praises, above all things, Dettori's intuition. "It works with horses and with people. Gives him exceptional ability in reading a race." His self-confidence allows him to make his own decisions: sometimes to jettison riding instructions completely. That is how he rode the winner of the last of his Magnificent Seven, making all on a horse he was supposed to keep covered up.

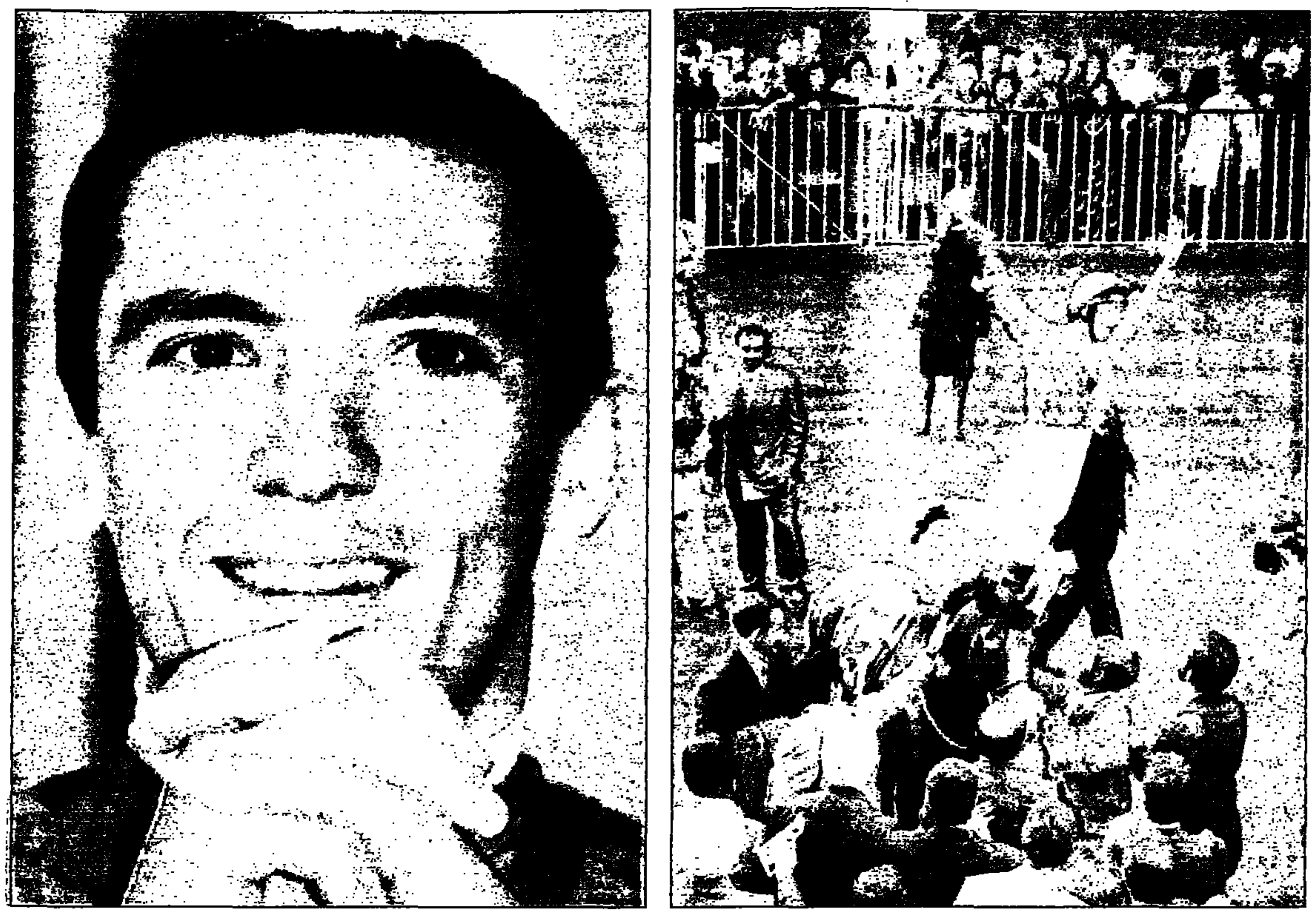
The most obvious of Dettori's qualities is balance. His mother, Mara, was a trapeze artist in a circus. It is a fact that pulls a lot into focus: sire a ruthless champion, dam a show-off with perfect balance.

His fellow jockey, John Reid, has been able to take a closer view of him than most. "It comes easy for him," he said. "And that happens, doesn't it, to the odd one in all walks of life. Not many."

Reid places him as one of those rare, once-in-a-lifetime talents, who have colossal natural gifts but also the desire to work, to maximise those talents. Thus they perform not only at the limit of their own ability, but very close to the limit of human ability. Bradman, Pelé, Best, perhaps Tiger Woods.

Ruthlessness is something that all leading athletes require: but they need a sense of balance too. "The difference between having a horse relaxed and having him run away is the edge of a razorblade," Dettori said. "You get everything right and that surge of power is indescribable."

The horsey sports are about power. It is the power of the horse, not the power of man over horse, that wins horse races; and every other kind of horsey event. But horses are also about something else: a passing from the exclusively human world into the strange border country that exists between two species of mammal. "The only time I am only happy is on a horse," Dettori once said. "Then I feel free."


Angel face? Underneath, Dettori is as hard as any champion. Right, the famous leap — "he took off as a famous jockey and landed as a famous man"

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.30 Last Christmas. 3.00 Patsy Grimes. 3.35 Saafeya. 4.10 Sharpo Wassl. 4.40 Winsa. 5.15 Beach Buoy.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F, HIGH BEST SIS

2.30 EBF KNUTSFORD MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,583: 7f 30yd) (12 runners)

1 ALCAYDE J Dunlop 9-0 W Ryan 2
2 COLLEGE MOUNT M Bielby 9-0 A Culhane 10
3 DORAID J Gosden 9-0 G Hind 8
4 00 LARAMANIA 29 P Evans 9-0 J F Egan 5
5 3 LAST CHRISTMAS 18 B Hills 9-0 Paul Eddery 6
6 06 LORD WARFORD 33 G Balding 9-0 P P Murphy (3) 1
7 6 NUIT D'OR 19 M Johnston 9-0 D Holland 12
8 6 THE BLUES ACADEMY 6 (V) M Johnston 9-0 Dean McKeown 11
9 2 THE GENE GENIE 50 M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 S Drowne 9
10 000 CAROLINE'S PET 43 A Bailey 8-9 J Bosley (7) 3
11 500 MAGGICE 49 R Hollinshead 8-9 F Lynch 4
12 WOSAITA J Dunlop 8-9 G Carter 7

11-4 The Gene Genie, 3-1 Last Christmas, 7-2 Doraid, 9-2 Wosaita, 13-2 Alcayde, 10-1 Nuit D'Or, The Blues Academy, 20-1 others

3.00 AKZO NOBEL HOLDINGS HANDICAP
(£5,732: 5f) (7)

1 2200 PATSY GRIMES 9 (D,F,G,S) J S Moore 7-9-11 P P Murphy (3) 5
2 0510 LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 15 (CD,G) M Heaton-Ellis 9-9-8 S Drowne 2
3 3201 ANSELLMAN 5 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-8 (6ex) C Lowther (5) 6
4 0054 KIRA 7 (D,F,G) J Eyre 7-9-5 R Lappin 3
5 3300 SQUIRE CORRIE 3 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-9-5 A Culhane 7
6 0003 SWYNFORD DREAM 9 (D,F,G) J Hetherton 4-8-8 J Lowe 4
7 5004 GOLD EDGE 9 (F) M Channon 3-7-10 A Mackay 1

3-1 Lord High Admiral, 7-2 Kira, 4-1 Anselman, 6-1 Swynford Dream, 7-1 Patsy Grimes, Gold Edge, 10-1 Squire Corrie.

3.35 EBF REPROCOLOR FILLIES HANDICAP
(£11,186: 1m 2f 120yd) (10)

1 1061 GANGA 28 (G,S) W Jarvis 3-9-10 D Holland 3
2 5312 SAAFEYA 17 (F) J Gosden 3-9-10 G Hind 1
3 3153 YABINT EL SULTAN 9 (F,S) B McMahon 3-9-10 D McKeown 9
4 6010 RASAYEL 23 (F,G,S) P Evans 7-9-7 J F Egan 8
5 3410 GRAND SPLENDOUR 15 (F) Lady Herries 4-9-5 S Drowne 10
6 -250 AJAYIB 8 (B,G) J Dunlop 3-9-2 W Ryan 5
7 5103 AGONY AUNT 15 (F) Mrs J Cecil 3-9-2 G Carter 7
8 0026 MY VALENTINA 9 (S) B Hills 3-9-0 Paul Eddery 6
9 4321 ARRIVING 9 (D,F,G) J Hills 3-8-10 M Henry (3) 2
10 4440 ORDAINED 18 (D,F) E Alston 4-8-0 A Mackay 4

7-2 Arriving, 9-2 Saafeya, 11-2 Yabint El Sultan, 13-2 Grand Splendour, My Valentina, 7-1 Ganga, Agony Aunt, 8-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ascot: 2.35 Swift Gulliver 3.55 Speedball 4.30 Priena. Haydock Park: 3.35 Ajayib. Market Rasen: 3.05 Le Grand Gousier, Emily-Jayne. Ascot tomorrow: 3.10 Speculator 5.35 Attitre.

4.10 AKZO NOBEL PREMIER HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,859: 7f 30yd) (16)

1 0061 MUJOVA 11 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 9-9 A Culhane 8
2 6040 OUR PEOPLE 25 (F) M Johnston 9-3 M Henry (3) 13
3 1306 ALKHLAS 11 (F) W Hern 9-3 G Hind 10
4 0323 STYLE DANCER 33 (V,F) R Whitaker 9-2 F Lynch 5
5 3300 AL MASROOR 11 (F) J W Payne 9-1 Dean McKeown 16
6 3144 CARIBBEAN STAR 10 (V,D,G) M Stoute 9-1 D Holland 6
7 3450 BLOOMING AMAZING 33 (F) J Eyre 8-12 W Ryan 12
8 1050 CEE-N-K 8 (D,F) M Johnston 8-12 G Carter 9
9 1631 SHARPO WASSL 42 (D,F,G) W Haggas 8-11 Jo Hunnam (5) 4
10 0510 NOR-DO-I 43 (BF) J Eustace 8-11 J Tate 7
11 31 CANTINA 7 (D,F) A Bailey 8-11 C Lowther (5) 11
12 1500 NOMINATOR LAD 11 (F) B McMahon 8-8 A Mackay 2
13 0600 I CAN'T REMEMBER 28 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 8-7 J F Egan 1
14 2014 BARRESBO 47 (D,G) C Fairhurst 8-6 Paul Eddery 3
15 2150 MYSTIQUE AIR 23 (D,G) E Weymes 8-3 R Winston (7) 15
16 5600 UNSHAKEN 28 (V,S) E Alston 8-1 S Drowne 14

9-2 Sharpo Wassl, 11-2 Caribbean Star, 13-2 Alkhlas, 7-1 Style Dancer, Cantina, 8-1 Mujova, Al Masroor, 12-1 others

4.40 EBF SALE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,518: 1m 30yd) (8)

1 0 DOATING 71 J Hills 8-11 M Henry (3) 4
2 00 ESSE 28 E Weymes 8-11 A Culhane 3
3 3302 HONEY STORM 18 M Channon 8-11 A Mackay 6
4 5 MUHABA 18 (BF) S bin Suroor 8-11 G Hind 2
5 0 QUEEN OF TIDES 18 M Stoute 8-11 D Holland 8
6 52 SAHARA 10 P Cole 8-11 J F Egan 5
7 5 STORM RIVER 17 H Cecil 8-11 W Ryan 1
8 42 WINSA 18 J Dunlop 8-11 G Carter 7

9-4 Winsa, 4-1 Storm River, 9-2 Muhaba, 6-1 Honey Storm, Sahara, 7-1 others

5.15 SEPTEMBER MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,339: 1m 6f) (15)

1 5600 ALPINE PANTHER 9 Mrs M Reveley 4-9-10 A Culhane 6
2 0504 RUFALDA 24 L Cumani 3-9-8 D Holland 7
3 565 DEVILISH CHARM 19 Mrs A Perrett 3-9-3 G Carter 13
4 6605 WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 19 J Eyre 4-9-5 R Lappin 3
5 4230 POINTE FINE 7 (BF) J Hills 3-9-4 M Henry (3) 10
6 2-00 INDIANA PRINCESS 19 Mrs M Reveley 4-9-4 R Winston (7) 1
7 04/0 CHIMBORAZO 17 B McMath 6-9-3 P McCabe (3) 15
8 -330 TOULSTON LADY 12 (B) J Wharton 5-8-12 S Drowne 2
9 3020 BEACH BUOY 12 J H Wilson 3-8-11 J F Egan 12
10 0400 KARISMA 12 D Smith 4-6-11 C Lowther (5) 9
11 00-5 WHAT JIM WANTS 224J J J O'Neill 4-8-4 G Hind 4
12 000- MOST WANTED 350J W McKeown 4-8-3 J Lowe 5
13 00-0 ALZOTIC 32 J Norton 4-6-2 N Kennedy 14
14 0053 MECHILIE 12 J W Payne 3-7-13 A Mackay 11
15 2000 BRONHALLOW 10 Mrs B Waring 4-7-11 D O'Shea 8

7-2 Rufalda, 5-1 Mechilie, 6-1 Karisma, 8-1 Beach Buoy, 10-1 Alpine Panther, Devilish Charm, Pointe Fine, Toulston Lady, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. H Cecil, 21 winners from 50 runners, 42.0%, W Haggas, 5 from 18, 27.8%; B Hills, 21 from 88, 23.9%, J Gosden, 24 from 106, 22.6%, W Jarvis, 7 from 31, 22.6%, J Dunlop, 25 from 112, 22.3%

JOCKEYS: W Ryan, 26 winners from 101 rides, 25.7%; Paul Eddery, 10 from 65, 15.4%, A Culhane, 8 from 64, 12.5%, D Holland, 8 from 68, 11.8%, G Carter, 11 from 97, 11.3%, S Drowne, 6 from 60, 10.0%

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.25 Regal Absence. 2.55 Danger Baby. 3.30 Boots Madden. 4.05 Talathath. 4.35 Difficult Decision. 5.10 Nishamira.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.25 BOATHOUSE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,303: 2m) (4 runners)

1 120- BROWNES HILL LAD 199 (S) R O Sullivan 5-10-10 J Osborne
2 282- LIVELY ENCOUNTER 190 (BF,D,S) Mrs M Jones 6-10-10 D Byrne
3 -111 REGAL ABSENCE 31 (D,F,G) D Nicholson 5-10-10 A Maguire
4 WHO TELLS JAN Miss P Whittle 4-10-3 W Marston

8-15 Regal Absence, 4-1 Lively Encounter, Brownes Hill Lad, 33-1 Who Tells Jan.

2.55 MARSHALL TUFFLEX HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,921: 2m 7f 110yd) (7)

1 0-51 NEWHALL PRINCE 11 (C,F,G) A Streeter 9-11-10 T Eley
2 1/35 OH SO HANDY 8 (B,F,G,S) R Curtis 9-11-8 D Morris
3 -031 THE GOPHER 24 (F,G,S) D Wintle 8-11-8 W Marston
4 21-3 KEEP IT ZIPPED 24 (B,BF,F,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-3 J Osborne
5 324- DANGER BABY 155 (F,G,S) P Bowen 7-11-3 A P McCoy
6 5-P0 PAPER STAR 17 (F,G) M Muggeridge 10-10-3 —
7 3PP- L'UOMO PIU 122 (C,F,G,S) A Barrow 13-10-1 Mr O McPhail (7)

5-2 The Gopher, 3-1 Keep It Zipped, 4-1 Newhall Prince, 9-2 Danger Baby, 6-1 Oh So Handy, 20-1 L'Uomo Piu, 25-1 Paper Star

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. O Sherwood, 17 winners from 52 runners, 32.7%, M Pipe 46 from 153, 30.1%, P Chamings, 3 from 10, 30.0%, D Nicholson, 24 from 84, 28.6%, Miss V Williams, 3 from 17, 17.6%, P Bowen, 9 from 61, 14.8%

JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 46 winners from 162 rides, 28.4%, J Osborne, 30 from 107, 28.0%, D Morris, 7 from 42, 16.7%, C Llewellyn, 24 from 148, 16.2%, A Maguire, 26 from 173, 15.0%; L Harvey, 8 from 76, 10.5%.

3.30 RIVER TEME NOVICES CHASE
(£3,787: 2m 7f 110yd) (10)

1 114- BOOTS MADDEN 256 (G,S) Miss V Williams 7-10-12 A Maguire
2 /0F- DANZIG ISLAND 319 (B,BF,F,G) W Jenks 6-10-12 C Llewellyn
3 -123 GENERAL MOUKTAR 16 (BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-12 A P McCoy
4 P/F6 GRIS ET VIOLET 12 (G,S) R Strange 10-10-12 J Culloty
5 INTO THE SWING Mrs M Jones 8-10-12 D Byrne
6 0-UP ROAMING SHADOW 33 (F,G,S) D Hyde 10-10-12 Mr J Tizzard (5)
7 1-25 SHILLELAGH OAK 16 (S) J O'Shea 7-10-12 Michael Brennan (3)
8 -P65 KIPPANOUR 47 (G) P Chamings 5-10-8 T Jenks
9 -324 OUR NIKKI 14 P Rodford 7-10-7 S Burrough
10 4414 LONGCROFT 24 (F,G) C Popham 5-10-3 Mr O McPhail (7)

11-8 Boots Madden, 9-2 General Mouktar, 5-1 Danzig Island, 8-1 others.

4.05 JOHN WHITT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,513: 2m 4f) (4)

1 112- TALATHATH 127 (BF,F,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-13 A Maguire
2 UU0- HAWKER HUNTER 48F (G) R Akehurst 6-11-7 J Osborne
3 U22- PERCY BRAITHWAITE 124 Ms Whittle 5-11-6 Mr J Goldstein (7)
4 FU30 VISION OF FREEDOM 5 (D,F,G) P Bowen 9-10-3 W Marston

6-5 Talathath, 5-2 Percy Braithwaite, Hawker Hunter, 8-1 Vision Of Freedom

4.35 EXCELNIR NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,978 2m) (9)

1 3122 NO LIGHT 17 (BF,CD,F,G,S) A Turnell 10-11-13 L Harvey
2 63-1 PHARARE 14 (D,F,S) R Woodhouse 7-10-11 W Dwan
3 3-4P ASTERIX 14 (F) J Bradley 9-10-8 R Farrant
4 0P0- DIFFICULT DECISION 260 Mrs M Jones 6-10-6 D Byrne
5 FPP3 THE YOKEL 7 B Baugh 11-10-3 A Maguire
6 -260 GOLDEN DRUM 67 (D,S) J O'Shea 7-10-2 Michael Brennan (3)
7 0-P0 KING OF BABYLON 14 (F) F Jordan 5-10-0 S Wynne
8 0/3R CAN'T SAY 15 J Bradley 5-10-0 B Fenton
9 0276 SPARTANS DINA 17 R Frost 6-10-0 Mr A Holdsworth

13-8 No Light, 9-4 Pharare, 7-1 Golden Drum, Difficult Decision, 10-1 others.

5.10 SPONSOR A RACE FOR A £1 HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,343: 2m) (4)

1 1-21 ROBERT'S TOY 47 (B,CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-12 A P McCoy
2 14-1 NISHAMIRA 15 (CD,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-2 A Maguire
3 305- BEND SABLE 193 (D,F,G,S) R Strange 7-11-1 J Culloty
4 50U- SQUIRE'S OCCASION 17F (D,F) R Curtis 4-10-6 J Osborne

10-11 Nishamira, 2-1 Robert's Toy, 13-2 Bend Sable, Squire's Occasion

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.10 Tancred Times. 2.40 Mrs Malaprop. 3.10 Silver Whirl. 3.45 Albert The Bear. 4.20 Misty Point. 4.50 Arian Spirit.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW. 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 OPEN-MORNING FILLIES NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,226: 7f) (8 runners)

1 315 ZENA 47 (BF,F) W Jarvis 9-7 J Fortune 2
2 530 KATAH 40 J Gosden 9-2 J Carroll 7
3 6452 JUNGLE STORY 15 P Walwyn 9-1 A McGlone 4
4 1300 TANCRED TIMES 7 (CD,G) D Barker 8-13 T Williams 5
5 0141 MARSKE MACHINE 28 (B,D,G,S) N Tinkler 8-7 Kim Tinkler 1
6 3100 THE HONORABLE LADY 7 (D,F) M Channon 8-5 Candy Morris 3
7 000 SMOOTH PRINCESS 10 J FitzGerald 8-5 L Charnock 6
8 0032 MAEDALEY 10 P Haslam 7-12 P Fessey (3) 8

3-1 Jungle Story, 4-1 Katah, 9-2 Marske Machine, 7-1 Zena, Tancred Times, Maedaley, 8-1 The Honorable Lady, 14-1 Smooth Princess

2.40 DUTTON-FORSHAW, STOCKTON LAND ROVER MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,568: 5f) (14)

1 00 AMBER REGENT 10 P Haslam 9-0 L Charnock 3
2 4 GREAT MELODY 108 J Eustace 9-0 P Fessey (3) 7
3 04 HOWIES CHOICE 77 K McAuliffe 9-0 Dale Gibson 9
4 000 LAWFUL CONTRACT 79 R Hollinshead 9-0 D Griffiths (3) 1
5 04 SURPRISED 10 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Fortune 8
6 0 ANDITZ 10 J Eyre 8-9 O Pears 14
7 00 ARJAN 22 J Berry 8-9 P Roberts (3) 5
8 03 CAROL SINGER 9 M Johnston 8-9 J Fanning 11
9 CRYSTAL LOUGH G Oldroyd 8-9 R Farmer (7) 4
10 5 LADY EMRAL 33 Miss J Craze 8-9 S Webster 10
11 66 MAYTONG 41 J Berry 8-9 T E Durcan (3) 2
12 02 MRS MALAPROP 6 M Channon 8-9 J Carroll 13
13 0 PABELLA BLUEBIRD 12 G Oldroyd 8-9 K Hodgson 12
14 0 WESTCOURT RUBY 10 M W Easterby 8-9 G Parkin (3) 6

5-2 Mrs Malaprop, 5-1 Surprised, 7-1 Howies Choice, 8-1 Great Melody, Arjan, Maytong, 10-1 Amber Regent, Carol Singer, 20-1 others.

3.10 JOHN MORGAN YORKSHIRE EVENING POST HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,148: 1m 3f 214yd) (6)

1 3544 SILVER WHIRL 9 R Charlton 9-7 J Fortune 4
2 050 BACK ROW 18 L Cumani 9-5 J Carroll 3
3 604 ERINRINCA 33 J Banks 8-3 P Fessey (3) 6
4 3625 KINGDOM PEARL 57 M Camacho 8-2 L Charnock 2
5 0000 AL AVA CONSONANT 109 J Bethell 7-10 — 5
6 000 SHOWSTOPPER 43 T Etherington 7-10 P Bradley (7) 1

5-4 Silver Whirl, 5-2 Back Row, 7-2 Kingdom Pearl, 8-1 Erinrinca, 25-1 Al Ava Consonant, 33-1 Showstopper

3.45 THEAKSTON APPRENTICES LIMITED STAKES
(£2,238: 5f 212yd) (5)

1 0005 ALBERT THE BEAR 7 (B,CD,F,S) J Berry 4-9-5 P Bradley (7) 3
2 0115 GAELIC STORM 7 (F,S) M Johnston 3-9-3 I Grantham (7) 2
3 0000 JOHNNY STACCATO 42 (D,G,S) J Eustace 3-9-0 P Fessey 5
4 0006 MISS ARAGON 36 (D,G) Miss L Siddall 9-8-10 T Siddall (5) 4
5 6300 OHNONOTAGAIN 43 N Tinkler 5-8-10 Iona Wands (5) 1

5-6 Gaelic Storm, 7-4 Albert The Bear, 10-1 Johnny Staccato, 12-1 Miss Aragon, 25-1 Ohnonotagain

4.20 BEDALE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,532: 5f 212yd) (8)

1 0000 COLONEL'S PRIDE 7 R Whitaker 9-0 O Pears 6
2 0000 PARDAN 19 B Palling 9-0 P Roberts (3) 3
3 245- WOODETTO 443 E Weymes 9-0 J Fanning 5
4 3330 DAINTREE 22 (V) H Collingridge 8-9 Dale Gibson 4
5 0355 MISTY POINT 23 I Balding 8-9 S Whitworth 1
6 006 PASSIONATTI 10 S Gollings 8-9 J Carroll 8
7 0000 TERRY'S ROSE 12 R Hollinshead 8-9 N Carlisle 7
8 0 VIOLETTE SABO 10 T Etherington 8-9 L Charnock 2

11-8 Misty Point, 9-2 Daintree, 6-1 Passionatti, 7-1 Woodetto, 8-1 Pardan, Terry's Rose, 20-1 Colonel's Pride, Violette Sabo

4.50 HIPSWELL HANDICAP
(£3,096: 1m 7f 177yd) (11)

1 560- HOME COUNTIES 147J (F,S) D Moffatt 8-9-13 Darren Moffatt (3) 7
2 3610 HASTA LA VISTA 8 (B,CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 7-9-13 G Parkin (3) 3
3 1020 FORZAIR 9 (CD,F) J J O'Neill 5-9-9 A McGlone 5
4 0104 FULLOPEP 73 (C,F) Mrs M Reveley 3-9-8 J Fortune 8
5 2103 ARIAN SPIRIT 8 (V,D,F,S) J Eyre 6-9-7 T Williams 9
6 0260 ROSE OF GLENN 12 (C,F,G) B Palling 6-9-3 P Roberts (3) 11
7 5140 MY MILLIE 32 (C,G) W Storey 4-8-10 J Fanning 1
8 00-2 RANGER SLOANE 7 G Fierro 5-8-10 N Carlisle 10
9 0460 COURSE FISHING 12 (F) B McMahon 6-8-6 L Newton 4
10 4345 FINESTATETOBEIN 7 F Watson 4-8-3 P Fessey (3) 2
11 0000 WELCOME LU 12 (C,F,G) J L Harris 4-7-12 F Norton 6

4-1 Arian Spirit, 9-2 Fullopep, 6-1 Hasta La Vista, Ranger Sloane, 7-1 Forzair, 8-1 Rose Of Glenn, Course Fishing, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Charlton, 3 winners from 4 runners, 75.0%, B Palling, 4 from 13, 30.8%; W Jarvis, 3 from 12, 25.0%, M Channon, 11 from 45, 24.4%, D Barker, 4 from 17, 23.5%; K McAuliffe, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Carroll, 27 winners from 173 rides, 15.6%; L Newton, 4 from 26, 15.4%, J Fortune, 19 from 125, 15.2%, O Pears, 6 from 48, 12.5%, F Norton, 4 from 34, 11.8%, G Parkin, 5 from 45, 11.1%.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

2.35 Silverdale Lad. 3.05 Blush. 3.40 Derring Bridge. 4.15 Dark Oak. 4.45 Jamaican Flight. 5.20 Serious. 5.50 Dark Horse.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.35 LINPAC GARAGES GROUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,276: 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 -312 SILVERDALE LAD 6 (CD,G) K Hogg 6-12-0 M Foster
2 -014 SUMMER VILLA 35 (B,CD,F) K Wingrove 5-10-11 J Ryan
3 4332 DOWN THE YARD 6 (BF) M Chapman 4-10-10 W Worthington
4 F1/P MR FUDGE 6 (F,G) M Sowersby 10-10-0 A S Smith
5 00-0 GAZANALI 11 G M Moore 6-10-0 N Bentley
6 /P-5 ACERBUS DULCIS 37F M Chapman 6-10-0 —
7 5-04 MOONLIGHT VENTURE 26 M Wane 5-10-0 J Supple

5-2 Down The Yard, 3-1 Summer Villa, 4-1 Silverdale Lad, 7-1 others.

3.05 RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE JUVENILE SELLING HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £1,814: 2m 1½f) (13)

1 16 CHOPIN 12 (G) G Johnson Houghton 11-3 D Gallagher
2 142 LE GRAND GOUSIER 11F (B,CD,F) R Williams 11-3 R Dunwoody
3 BALI-PET 42F J Parkes 10-10 E Husband (3)
4 3 FORTUNE HOPPER 31 J Pearce 10-10 T Kent
5 0 NORTHERN MAESTRO 45F Mrs M Reveley 10-10 P Niven
6 SHORELEAVE 122F Bob Jones 10-10 R Garritty
7 THE TIG 148F S Bell 10-10 K Johnson
8 VENTURE CONNECT 108F C Brooks 10-10 S McNeill
9 BLUSH 11F M Pipe 10-5 C Maude
10 60 EMILY-JAYNE 11 (B) Mrs M Reveley 10-5 G Lee (3)
11 4 LA PERDOMA 26 Miss M Milligan 10-5 A S Smith
12 MELODIC SQUAW 4F M Bielby 10-5 A Dobbin
13 MISTY CAY 24F Mrs V Ward 10-5 R Thornton (3)

5-2 Blush, 4-1 Misty Cay, 6-1 Le Grand Gousier, 7-1 Fortune Hopper, 8-1 others.

3.40 AUDREY BUTTERY REUNION HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,717: 3m) (4)

1 1P/F EVER SMILE 16 (D,F,S) M Pipe 10-12-0 N Williamson
2 1321 DERRING BRIDGE 16 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Johnson 7-11-3 R Johnson
3 -P26 ANTIGUAN FLYER 8 (V,F,G) G Prodromou 8-10-2 X Aizpuru (5)
4 1025 THIRTY BELOW 6 (F) M Chapman 8-10-0 W Worthington

6-4 Derring Bridge, 7-4 Ever Smile, 4-1 Antiguan Flyer, 7-1 Thirty Below

4.15 SINGLETON BIRCH HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,042: 2m 4f) (5)

1 423- BEATSON 179 (BF,D,F,G,S) R Buckler 8-11-13 B Powell
2 1/F- SPEAKER WEATHERILL 289 (CD) O Brennan 8-11-11 M Brennan
3 P3-5 DARK OAK 6 (CD,F,G,S) J Curtis 11-11-3 A Thornton
4 -414 TIGHTER BUDGET 11 (D,F,G,S) Denise Sayer 10-11-2 A Dobbin
5 411- HIGHBEATH 154 (CD,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-9 P Niven

11-8 Highbeath, 3-1 Tighter Budget, 5-1 Beatson, 6-1 others

4.45 MORRISONS CORRUGATED PRODUCTS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,746: 2m 3f 110yd) (6)

1 1-11 JAMAICAN FLIGHT 9F (CD) Mrs S Lamyman 4-12-0 N Williamson
2 412- SHEKELS 161 (BF,G) C Brooks 6-11-10 M Berry (7)
3 111F IRIE MON 8 (BF,C,F,G) M Bielby 5-10-10 M A Fitzgerald
4 501- COTTAGE PRINCE 98F (F,G) J J Quinn 4-10-10 L Wyer
5 1122 LEAP IN THE DARK 7 (BF,F,S) Miss L Siddall 8-10-8 A Thornton
6 2/0- KING OF THE HORSE 148 (F) R Johnson 6-10-0 K Johnson

9-4 Irie Mon, 3-1 Jamaican Flight, 7-2 Cottage Prince, 4-1 Shekels, 8-1 others

5.20 LINPAC GARAGES GROUP NOVICES CHASE
(£2,945: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 003- CHERYL'S LAD 134 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-10-10 R Johnson
2 P6-P GOING PUBLIC 105 (F) P Cheesbrough 10-10-10 A S Smith
3 56/ JAMANE 1092 T Donnelly 7-10-10 Mr R Armson
4 122- RANGITIKEI 196 (BF,D,G,S) C Mann 6-10-10 R Dunwoody
5 F04- SERIOUS 124 (F,G) K Bailey 7-10-10 N Williamson
6 00-3 STANMORE 14 C Brooks 5-10-8 S McNeill

6-4 Cheryl's Lad, 7-4 Rangitikei, 7-2 Serious, 10-1 Stanmore, 33-1 others.

5.50 GO FOR GOLD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
(£1,152: 1m 5f 110yd) (12)

1 85- DARK HORSE 121 C Brooks 5-11-4 M Berry (7)
2 RF-0 FOREST FLIGHT 91 C Hemsley 5-11-4 Miss A Dudley (7)
3 0-0 LYSANDER 105 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-4 L Suthern (7)
4 04 DOVE FROM ABOVE 8 R J Price 4-11-2 L Cummins (5)
5 60 EIRAWE 73 B Ellison 4-11-2 C McCormack (7)
6 KALICK Ron Thompson 4-11-2 A Todd (7)
7 042- JESSICA ONE 208 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13 G Lee (3)
8 OH NO ROSIE B McMath 6-10-13 G Hogan (3)
9 GO FOR IT SWEETIE G Barnett 4-10-11 Mr B Leavy
10 HOLDERNESS GIRL Miss J Craze 4-10-11 P Henley (3)
11 MISTOMI J Wainwright 4-10-11 F Leahy (3)
12 PERFECT VIEW J Curtis 4-10-11 R Thornton (3)

4-5 Jessica One, 5-1 Dark Horse, 6-1 Dove From Above, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. C Mann, 5 winners from 15 runners, 33.3%, K Bailey, 14 from 46, 30.4%, C Brooks, 3 from 11, 27.3%; J Pearce, 5 from 19, 26.3%, D Nicholson, 6 from 24, 25.0%, M Pipe, 16 from 64, 25.0%

JOCKEYS: N Williamson, 20 winners from 78 rides, 25.6%, L Wyer, 20 from 106, 18.9%, R Dunwoody, 14 from 75, 18.7%, M Fitzgerald, 9 from 54, 16.7%, R Johnson, 8 from 50, 16.0%; F Leahy, 8 from 52, 15.4%

King Of Kings has chip removed from knee

KING OF KINGS, a leading fancy for next year's 2,000 Guineas, underwent a minor operation to remove a slight chip from his off-fore knee yesterday *(Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes)*. However, his trainer, Aidan O'Brien, expects the son of Sadler's Wells to make a full recovery.

O'Brien revealed that the problem came to light after the winner of Sunday's Aga Khan Studs National Stakes at the Curragh was found to be slightly stiff in front after light exercise on Tuesday. John Halley, the Ballydoyle vet, was called to examine him and an X-ray showed up a small chip in the colt's knee.

"An operation has been performed to remove the chip and the procedure went well," O'Brien said. "I had not intended to race him again as a two-year-old so this unfortunate injury does not effect his campaign. I expect him to make a full and complete recovery from the operation and he remains on target for *next year's 2,000 Guineas*."

Nonetheless, King Of Kings has drifted in the Guineas betting, with Coral pushing him out to 10-1 from 8-1. Second Empire, his stable companion, was cut from 8-1 into 7-1 joint-favourite with Daggers Drawn.

Simon Clare, spokesman for Coral, said: "The money for Second Empire comes as no surprise as he arguably put up the best two-year-old performance of the season so far in France. We haven't taken a penny on King Of Kings since his defeat two months ago, and that, allied to the recent emergence of Xaar and Second Empire, persuaded us to lengthen his odds."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park

Going: good

2.30 (1m 2f 120yd) 1, Sunny Isle (J Reid, 7-4 fav), 2, Beacon Silver (2-1), 3, Mowelga (7-1) 6 ran. NR: Aeolina. 1¼l, ¾l. C Wall. Tote: £2.30; £1.80, £1.70. DF £2.20. CSF. £4.79

3.00 (7f 30yd) 1, Moonshiner (Paul Eddery, 13-2); 2, Kawa-Ib (2-1); 3, Maypole (7-4 fav). 6 ran. 6l, ¾l. G Wragg. Tote: £7.20, £2.90, £1.50. DF: £9.50. CSF: £16.48.

3.30 (1m 3f 200yd) 1, Marsul (R Hills, 8-1); 2, Billy Bushwacker (6-1), 3, Aerleon Pete (15-8 fav). 9 ran. ½l, ½l. J Gosden. Tote: £9.10; £2.20, £2.00, £1.60. DF £24.30. Trio £32.30. CSF: £50.60. Tricast: £116.45.

4.00 (1m 30yd) 1, Duraid (C Lowther, 11-2 fav), 2, Jedi Knight (11-1); 3, Night Of Glass (7-1); 4, Sualtach (14-1). 17 ran. NR: Kass Alhawa. 2l, ½l. D Smith. Tote: £5.80, £2.00, £3.20, £1.70, £2.90. DF £51.70. Trio. £219.80. CSF. £58.69. Tricast: £402.22

4.30 (6f) 1, Kheyrah (R Hills, 6-4 fav), 2, Branston Berry (9-1), 3, Peter's Imp (16-1) 11 ran. Nk, 3l. E Dunlop. Tote £2.30, £1.50, £2.50, £3.60. DF £10.70. Trio. £100.50. CSF £15.00. Tricast £150.48

5.00 (1m 6f) 1, The Faraway Tree (Paul Eddery, 8-11 fav); 2, Poltarf (3-1); 3, Nabhaan (3-1). 3 ran. Sh hd, 4l. G Wragg. Tote: £1.60. DF: £1.70. CSF. £2.85

Placepot: £13.60. Quadpot: £6.90.

Redcar

Going: firm, good to firm in places

2.20 (1m 1f) 1, Sinon (D Holland, 20-1); 2, Double Blade (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Paradise Soul (12-1). Palrumani Star 2-1 jt-fav. 10 ran. 2½l, nk. M Johnston. Tote £19.70; £3.80, £1.10, £3.50. DF £14.40. Trio: £36.00. CSF: £53.99.

2.50 (6f) 1, Johayro (D Griffiths, 12-1), 2, Saint Express (6-1), 3, Thwaab (12-1), 4, French Grit (16-1). Just Bob 9-2 fav. 17 ran. Hd, nk. J Goldie. Tote. £13.40; £3.30, £1.70, £2.40, £5.50. DF: £48.50. Trio: £266.10. CSF. £78.27. Tricast. £878.09

3.20 (1m 2f) 1, Tart (K Fallon, 9-2 jt-fav), 2, Filial (8-1); 3, Lochlass (8-1), 4, Raindeer Quest (5-1). Grate Times 9-2 jt-fav. 17 ran. ½l, ½l. J Pearce. Tote: £4.00, £1.10, £2.00, £2.60, £2.10. DF: £14.80. Trio: £48.90. CSF: £39.70. Tricast: £279.10.

3.50 (1m 6f 19yd) 1, Ferny Hill (S Sanders, 7-4 fav; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Wahiba Sands (13-2), 3, Steamroller Stanly (5-2). 5 ran. Hd, ½l. M Prescott. Tote. £2.50; £1.80, £2.10. DF: £6.80. CSF: £11.49

4.20 (7f) 1, Ricky Ticky Tavie (K Fallon, 2-5 fav), 2, Bamburgh Boy (4-1), 3, Colway Ritz (16-1). 12 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. D Loder. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.10, £2.80. DF £2.20. Trio: £7.50. CSF £2.31

4.50 (6f) 1, Special Treat (K Fallon, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, Yanomami (7-4 jt-fav); 3, Lindesberg (2-1). 4 ran. 4l, hd. D Loder. Tote: £2.50. DF £2.00. CSF: £4.73

5.20 (5f) 1, Mighty Sure (G Parkin, 3-1), 2, Swanmore Lady (3-1); 3, Ellenbrook (9-4 fav). 8 ran. Sh hd, 4l. M W Easterby. Tote: £5.00; £1.30, £1.50, £1.30. DF £6.20. CSF. £11.83. Tricast £21.71

Placepot: £62.30. Quadpot: £8.10.

Folkestone

Going: firm

2.10 (1m 1f 149yd) 1, Delilua (Dane O'Neill, 11-10 fav), 2, Priluki (3-1); 3, Miss Vita (9-1). 7 ran. 1½l, nk. R Guest. Tote £1.80; £1.30, £2.20. DF: £2.60. CSF £4.40.

2.40 (6f) 1, Legal Lark (M Roberts, 3-1), 2, Just Another Time (9-4 fav), 3, Lady Almatra (10-1). 11 ran. Hd, 1½l. P Howling. Tote: £4.30; £1.80, £1.30, £3.50. DF. £5.10. Trio: £44.50. CSF: £9.94

3.10 (5f) 1, Call To Order (R Mullen, 4-5 fav), 2, Missed The Cut (13-2), 3, Red Pepper (20-1). 10 ran. Nk, 1¼l. C Wall. Tote £1.60, £1.10, £2.20, £4.40. DF £4.20. Trio: £28.60. CSF £5.08.

3.40 (5f) 1, Mantles Pride (R Ffrench, 8-1); 2, Arian Da (8-1), 3, Ok John (7-1). Escudo 2-1 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 2l. G Lewis. Tote: £10.40; £2.20, £2.30, £2.00. DF: £29.90. CSF. £69.30. Tricast: £345.49

4.10 (6f 189yd) 1†, Master Millfield (J Wilkinson, 14-1), 1†, Zurs (R Mullen, 9-2), 3, Mukhlles (14-1). Lunch Party 2-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Red Embers, Super Park. Dd-ht, nk. C Hill, J Poulton. Tote: Zurs £3.20, Master Millfield £7.90, Zurs £2.20, Master Millfield £4.90, £5.30. DF: £118.60. Trio: £357.10. CSF: Zurs, Master Millfield £35.96, Master Millfield, Zurs £40.46. Tricast: Zurs, Master Millfield, Mukhlles £411.86; Master Millfield, Zurs, Mukhlles £449.61.

4.40 (1m 7f 92yd) 1, Unchanged (M Roberts, 5-1); 2, Padauk (16-1); 3, Coh Sho No (2-1). Il Principe 7-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Bronhallow, Star Entry. 1½l, 2½l. C Brittain. Tote: £6.20; £1.40, £4.50, £1.40. DF: £49.20. Trio £37.50. CSF: £73.21. Tricast. £195.36.

5.10 (1m 4f) 1, Opera Buff (J Wilkinson, 9-2), 2, Pistol (2-1 fav); 3, Nobel Lad (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Statejack. Hd, 5l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £5.80; £2.40, £2.00, £2.00. DF £5.70. Trio: £31.80. CSF: £13.75.

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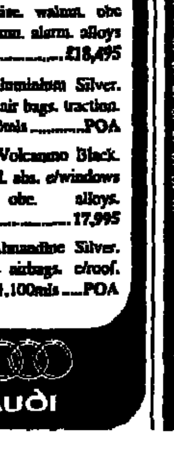

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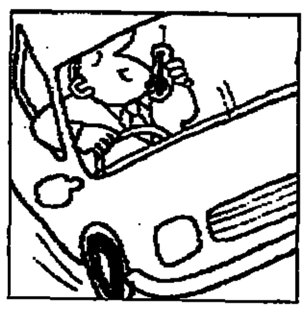

Messages are bad for your driving

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2nd PEKING-PARIS

A drive across the roof of the world

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Saddle up for the superstore

Can't manage the weekly shop without a car? You can with a bicycle hitched to a hod, says **Vaughan Freeman**

It causes noise, pollution and congestion, but for many people the car is essential on at least one day a week. Getting to out-of-town supermarkets — and returning loaded with the family shopping — presents *problems if you're walking or* using public transport.

The answer could be to get on your bike — with a bright yellow shopping trolley hitched to the back. It might seem a low-tech alternative to today's computer-laden cars, but it could point the way to our fume-free transport future.

The weekly drive to the superstore can be up to four or five miles before queueing nose to tail with the rest of the traffic to get into the car park. Then comes the trail through the aisles, before loading up carrier bags at the checkout, loading the bags into the boot, queueing to get out of the car park again, then decanting the whole lot out and into the kitchen after the drive home again.

Now that Transport Secretary John Prescott has officially sounded the death knell for the two-car family, and has rephrased Norman Tebbit by urging us to get on our bikes, trains and buses, the anti-car tide is gaining momentum.

Which is where the Tesco Bike and Trailer Shopping scheme comes in. The Tesco store on the fringes of Chichester in West Sussex has 600 *parking spaces, but the hope is* that more of them will stand empty after Tesco and the Chichester District Council joined forces to make it easier for customers to cycle rather than drive to do their shopping.

The scheme offers motorists and cyclists alike a new way to shop. Having paid £5 to join the scheme, members get free use of the gaudily yellow "bike hods" which hitch to the back of their cycles using an ingenious but simple-to-use coupling.

It means shoppers need just load the hod at the checkout, hitch up, then unload it at home. And, because of the *Chichester town planner's forward-thinking*, shopping cyclists have the use of a network of cycle paths and traffic-calmed routes other towns would do well to emulate.

Tesco store manager Paul Tyson says: "Jeff Lander, the district council's senior planning officer, came to see me with some information, including the fact that about a quarter of the people locally do not have access to a car.

"He also showed me the bike hod idea. Clearly hanging carrier bags over your handlebars is not a safe way to go shopping, while regular cycle panniers are smaller and limited as to the amount of shopping they can carry."

The idea of a partnership to promote the bike-hods at Tesco's Fishbourne store seemed an obvious move. "The council and Tesco decided to enter a partnership to provide the bike-hods and the response has been terrific," Lander says. "A lot of people shop by bicycle anyway and the bike-hod allows them to carry far more, much more safely."

Designed to stand out in poor visibility, the hod can be fitted with lights for safer *night riding. It is stable*, says Lander, and the cyclist barely feels it is there.

"The more traffic congestion grows, the more perhaps people will see it just is not worth getting the car out to do the shopping and think instead they should take the bike," Landers adds.

"The car has the clear advantage of having a boot. The bike-hod gives the bicycle a boot, and means customers can load it in the supermarket and unload it at home, saving two lots of car loading which has to make things easier."

Tyson adds: "Realistically I don't think you are going to see the demise of the car as the *main mode of transport; but if* with schemes like this we can reduce the use of cars we can make an impact, because up until now there has not been an easy-to-use alternative to the car for doing the weekly shopping."

Using the bike-hod is surprisingly simple. The hitch is in effect a flexible rubber hose that slots over a short metal pipe fitted to the bicycle's saddle post. A pin keeps the hose in place, and this acts as an articulated coupling between cycle and hod.

The hod can carry up to 81 litres, and a weight that would take two adults to lift. Yet on *the move* you can cycle along merrily and feel almost as if there is nothing behind you.

The only problem is that you tend to forget that the hod is 6ins or so wider each side than the cycle, so squeezing through narrow gaps can be embarrassing. The hod soaks up bumps and kerbs without difficulty and is very, very stable.

The ultimate irony — a delicious one for Chichester fans of pedal power — is that *many Tesco cycle shoppers* will bike home along the Centurion Way, a dedicated cycle path running by a disused railway line which has for many years been the route of a possible road bypass for the area.

With the transport wind now set firmly against the car, Chichester's biking shoppers can expect their way to be car-free for many years to come.

Claire Edwards: "We've filled it with all sorts of shopping, including trays of beer. Every customer has asked about it"

HOD CARRIER

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■ CLAIRE Edwards is full of praise for the bike-hod. Claire, 23, who works at the superstore and has been demonstrating the system to customers: "We have been filling it up with all sorts of shopping, including heavy things like trays of beer. You don't even know you have got the hod on the 'bike, and when we have been demonstrating every customer has stopped to ask about it. It is a really good idea. If I lived closer to the store, I would definitely use one for my shopping."

■ HER reservations represent the key obstacle to the project's instant success *— she lives nine hilly* miles from the Tesco store, and at the moment her Vauxhall Astra remains favourite for the weekly shop ahead of 18 or so tough miles on two wheels.

■ IF YOU have the legs for it though, the hod system is simplicity itself to use, and a lot cheaper and healthier than a car. It is also far roomier than even the biggest pannier, although users are warned against carrying children or pets.

■ THE HOD must be returned to the Tesco customer service desk within three days, hopefully filled with old newspapers, empty cans, and bottles to complete the "green" recycling circle.

■ *THERE* were no problems on a warm September day, but the test will come as winter approaches, and rain, snow, cold winds and mud challenge two-wheeler customers whose alternative to a bicycle, is the warm cocoon of a motor car.

Brilliant Porsche leaves the Look-at-me-mobile behind in speed and style

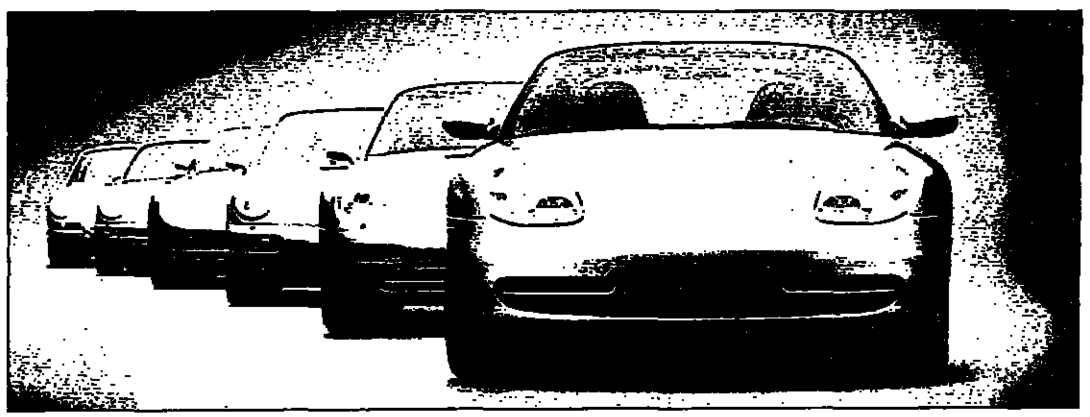
The born-again 911 is a giant leap that drives like a dream, writes **Ian Morton**

In 1963, when tiddler Stuttgart sports car firm Porsche produced a new rear-engined model based on its well-liked 356, they called it the 901. Peugeot promptly complained that the use of a middle zero *infringed their established* practice, so Porsche changed the zero to a 1. Courtesy of French meddling, the embryo icon became the 911.

Now, after 34 years of evolution during which the basic concept and shape have remained intact and Porsche has built a huge international sports car reputation — it now sells in 69 countries — the 911 is born again. It is a quantum leap above and beyond the archetypal raw-edged Look-at-me-mobile of the yuppie Eighties, a period which *Porsche would now prefer to forget*, despite its obvious cash-flow benefits at the time.

Though the car is new in every respect, there never was a moment when Porsche executives considered losing either the unmistakable shape or the legendary designation. And purist customers need not fret. In every department this latest 911 is significantly better than the *current four-year-old model. Tech*nology director Horst Marchart reckons that, with suitable updating, it will be good for a dozen years. First version, here next month, is the Carrera Coupé at £64,950. Cabrio, four-wheel drive and RS models will follow.

Logic propels this redesign. *Re*vered by enthusiasts but financially rocky, Porsche decided to reorganise its operation around two model ranges, the 911 and mid-engined Boxster, with simultaneous development and a high level of commona parts. Though they aim at totally different customers, 911 and Boxster share almost 40 per cent of components, mainly at the front end.



Porsche 911: executives never considered losing the unmistakable shape or legendary designation

In addition, the 911's venerable flat-six, air-cooled engine had to go. Only a water-cooled multi-valve version of the unit would meet impending noise and exhaust legislation and improved consumption needs. While they were about it, they made engine and gear box shorter.

Add uprated active and passive safety, extra steering and suspension integrity, a mass of practical new design detail and a heap of new technology — there are 10 electronic control units reporting to a central computer on the car's "state of health" — and no wonder Porsche engineers needed a blank sheet. The result is a brilliant new chapter in the history of what many see as the car of the century. The 911 advances in every department.

Look at it. Seven inches longer and an inch wider, but weighing 110lbs less than the outgoing 911 (which remains available till next July), its bulk is sleek and athletic.

Slip inside. There is more space in every direction (though still not enough to accommodate adult legs in the rear) and the control area is methodically laid out, daintily presented and easily used. This is now a comfortable money's worth tourer rather than a sizzling projectile with a veneer of luxury.

Listen to it. At 70mph the engine is spinning unheard at 2,500rpm against an available 7,400. Absent too is wind noise. Only the road rumbles reassuringly. Stab the throttle — pendant now, not floor-mounted — and the car utters that familiar whirring yell and rockets away in an instant. Porsche say it stops rocketing at 174mph — or 171mph in the five-speed automatic with Tiptronic button controls on the wheel — and I believe them.

Feel it. Arrow straight down the motorway, and the steering nevertheless caresses and weighs each yard of road, softening the blips and satinising the undulations in a way the old 911 never did. This one is a real long distance smoothie.

Better still, come the tight fast bends and it just goes round. If you doubted its abilities, you wonder why. Challenge the next bends more violently and wonder some more. For the more testing the corner the more accurate and *communicative the steering and the* more level and confident the squat of the car upon its redesigned lightweight suspension.

I did get a tiny twitch on one corrugated corner, but the traction control system nailed it in an instant. As for the brakes, Porsche developed them at Le Mans. The car hit 60mph from rest in five seconds and stopped dead in half the time.

PORSCHE 911

Engine: 3.4-litre, flat six, 24-valve water-cooled.

Transmission: Six-speed manual, five-speed auto with Tiptronic S.

Performance: 0-60mph in 5.2secs (auto 6secs). Max speed 174mph.

Economy: Combined 28mpg (manual), 26.6mpg (auto).

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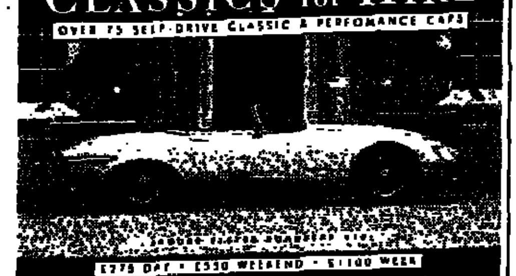

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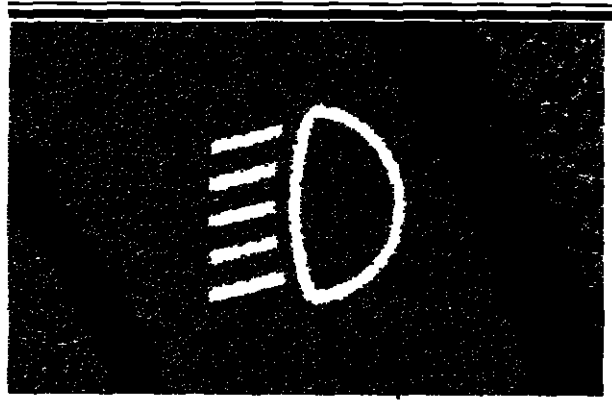

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Flying scared me, so I became a pilot

Eve-Ann Prentice's fears vanished at the controls of a Piper Warrior

I did my qualifying finals at Cambridge at the weekend — after studying at Oxford. But the only light and dark blues in sight were the hues of the sky.

I have been learning to fly with the Oxford Air Training School and, as part of the series of exams needed to gain a private pilot's licence, was sent solo from Oxford to Cambridge and Coventry. Finals is pilot-speak for an aircraft's last descent on to the runway after joining an airfield's circuit to land.

The qualifying cross country is a landmark in any pilot's life. For me it also marked the crossing of a mental barrier in a personal odyssey to try to conquer an all-embracing dread of flying. While I cannot say there have been no moments of stomach-turning fear, facing up to the phobia bogey has worked — thanks largely to the patience and expertise of two instructors at Oxford Air Training School, an institution more used to training the next generation of airline pilots than prising the nervous off the ground.

Joe Sharp — ex-RAF navigator and now one of Oxford's commercial pilot instructors — left me momentarily speechless when he sent me on my first solo without any hint of warning after about 17 hours' of lessons. Brian Hampson persuaded me, after more than 40 hours, that it *is* possible to find your way with no signposts, maps which at first seem to bear no relationship to the reality of seemingly identical villages and fields 2,000 feet below, and where white, benign clouds have a disconcerting propensity to become black monsters.

I had been sent on a couple of shorter forays before the qualifying cross country, but the old, cold fear tried to raise its head as I opened the throttle and the Piper Warrior accelerated down the runway at Kidlington airfield just outside Oxford. Keeping on the centre line and glancing at the instruments to check oil and fuel temperatures and pressures, I reached 65 knots, and the only way was up. I eased back the control column and was airborne.

Under the bonnet: Prentice checks her plane before take-off

From that moment I was so busy climbing, carrying out the series of checks which monitor the health of the 160hp engine and the progress of the flight, making regular radio contact with various air traffic controllers and marvelling at the miracle of navigation by dead reckoning, that the phobia was locked back in its cage.

Oxford Air Training School is regarded as one of the world's best and is currently teaching 194 would-be commercial pilots from seven airlines. It trains just a handful of private pilots every year and its reputation is reflected in its prices. Gaining a private pilot's licence at Oxford costs £6,000-£7,000, while learning at a grass strip, such as Skyline School of Flying at Little Gransden in Cambridgeshire, can be £2,000-£2,500. But Oxford in your log book is the flying equivalent of an Oxbridge degree.

The cost of learning also depends on how long you take. You need a minimum of 43 hours' tuition, including 10 hours' solo, but most people take more than 50 hours and I have nearly 60. This is largely because, in common with many others, work, bad weather and other commitments forced me to take more than a year's break, and it took more than 10 hours to catch up.

To gain a PPL, you need a medical certificate and must pass written multiple-choice exams in aviation law, meteorology, human performance (which deals in such matters as oxygen starvation), navigation, technical aspects of the aircraft and use of the radio. These are covered in more detail than you may imagine: the met exam alone, for instance, probably requires as much study as a GCSE. One of the most frustrating aspects of learning to fly is to coordinate this range of skills — I am not alone in initially finding using the radio immensely distracting when merely keeping the aircraft in straight and level flight seems to demand all your attention.

Then, just when you think you're going to be the world's longest-running student pilot, it all becomes clear. You do your sums to calculate the effect of wind, the times to reach certain landmarks, the direction you should steer and, hey presto, it works. The day dawns when you are not setting out more in hope than anticipation of arriving.

The important lesson Brian Hampson taught me was to accept that you are not going to know exactly where you are every second of the way, but that if you keep on course recognisable landmarks will eventually appear — usually at precisely the time predicted at the planning stage.

Everything then happens quickly and you are entered for the navigation test, where an examiner accompanies you on a pre-planned flight and diverts you to see if you would get lost if bad weather forced you to change route, the qualifying cross country and the general flight test, a sort of driving test in the sky.

SEAN PAGE

Pre-flight briefing: it is possible with maps which seem to bear no relationship to seemingly identical villages and fields

After climbing away from Kidlington, setting the stopwatch and seeing the airfield disappear as I headed east towards Cambridge, I tuned the radio in to Luton as I was to pass within its radar area. The prospect of talking in radio-telephony language to an international airport with presumably more than chits of student pilots to contend with can be daunting at first. But not as daunting as the thought of straying inadvertently too close to controlled airspace with its flight paths for big jets if you do not let the air traffic controllers know you exist so they can track you on radar.

Milton Keynes and Biggleswade appeared at the predicted times and, about 45 minutes after leaving Oxford, the brown haze of a city loomed. Five minutes later, spires and steeples were clearly visible and, nestling on the far side was Cambridge airport. "Golf Bravo Foxtrot Yankee Foxtrot, finals to land," I radioed after being given clearance by the control tower, starting to feel like a real pilot.

Paying the landing fee of £8 made me feel even more authentic. But it was the approach to Coventry an hour and a half later which clinched it: "G-BFYB, are you visiting som one or intending to stop t night?" air traffic controll asked as I was joining Cove try's circuit. If he couldn't tel was a rookie, I could probab fool some of the people some the time — even myself.

Oxford Air Training School, 018 841234; Skyline School of Flyi 01767 651950. There is no centi register of flying schools, but mi Yellow Pages list local ones.

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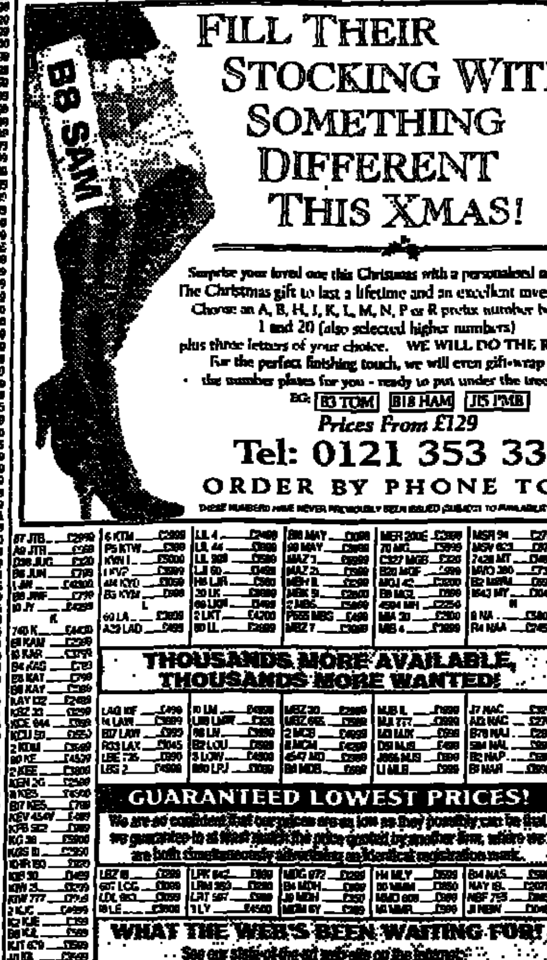

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We ought to be grown-up enough to deal with the situation without legislation, but we are not; the mobile phone has become the adult umbilical cord

Don't call me, I've got my hands full

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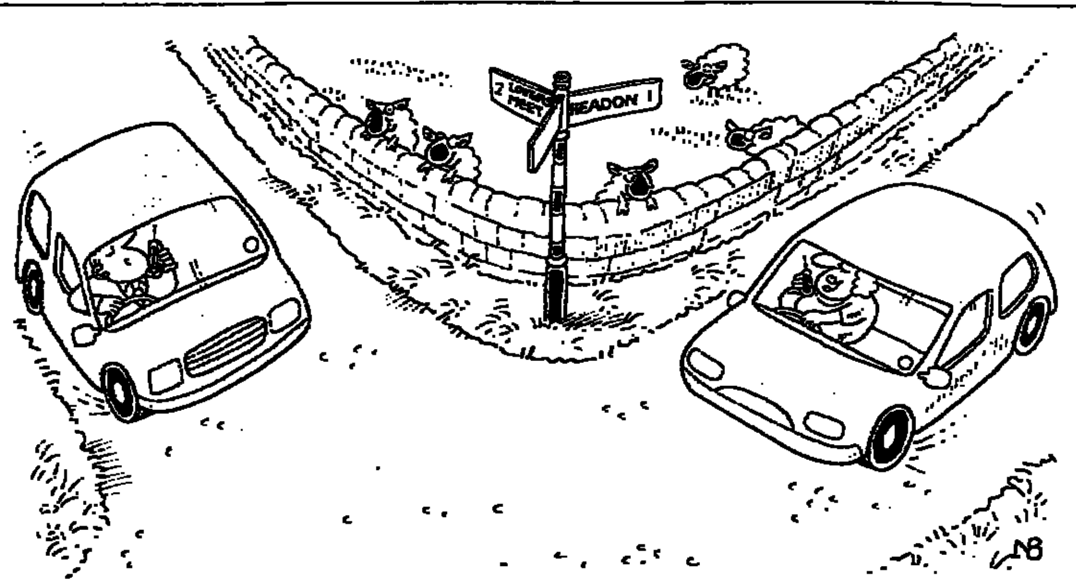

Only the youngest readers will need to be told that the world managed before mobile telephones and will continue to do so when they have gone. There is not a scintilla of evidence that the Second World War might have been avoided had Hitler been able to ring Neville Chamberlain in his limousine. Neither is it true that Margaret Thatcher might have survived the 1990 Tory coup had her campaign manager, in calling wavering MPs, not kept getting the message "network busy".

Stories of multibillion-pound contracts being lost because a managing director's car was stalled, beyond the reach of Vodaphone, Cellnet or Orange, in an *underpass when he was needed* to agree a contractual change are almost certainly apocryphal.

Mobile telephones, much like the Internet, electric toothbrushes and Noel Edmonds, are non-essential items. Lots of people have mobile telephones, lots of people find them useful, but nobody "needs" one. I have one, but I do not "need" it. I could easily convince myself that a mobile is essential and I suppose that, as a journalist, mine is nearer to being essential than some. But a bleeper would do just as well, and indeed days go by without me needing the telephone or the telephone needing me. On these occasions, their use in cars might as well be banned for all they matter to me. But that is not the only reason why I propose to argue for such a ban.

I am merely coat-tailing the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, which has been researching the use of phones in cars (as opposed to mobile phones *per se*). The evidence that using a mobile while driving is dangerous is overwhelming. Their use in cars should be prevented by law.

There is a widespread misconception that there is already a ban, at least on motorways. But there is nothing about mobiles in any of the legislation. There is merely an understanding that the police have the right to bring a prosecution for careless driving if they see someone using a mobile in circumstances they consider dangerous — at speed, for example.

Having spotted that things are moving against them, the mobile phone lobby, is conducting something of a rearguard action. It argues that mobiles are indeed dangerous because they involve taking a hand off the wheel to pick up the phone. Therefore we must all rush out and buy hands-free sets. Utter rubbish.

The problem with mobiles in cars is not the physical requirement but the mental one. An incoming telephone call, taken in a car, more often than not falls into one of two categories: it is either an emergency or it requires some kind of business decision.

This week I have heard people in the mobile phone business arguing that taking a call is no different to listening to the radio or conversing with a passenger. More rubbish. A driver does not have to concentrate fully on Dire Straits or listen to a spouse argue the merits of buying a new carpet, whereas the nature of most incoming calls significantly distracts from the task of driving.

There are tragic cases of people who have died in circumstances where using a mobile telephone might have contributed. My young colleague, Kate Alderson, was using a mobile when she died in a crash last year. There can be no proof that the phone played a part, but we must do something to remove even the possibility.

Of course we ought to be grown-up enough to deal with the situation without legislation, but clearly we are not. The mobile phone has become the adult umbilical cord: we dare not cut it, even for a moment. And yet, so far as I know, all networks now offer an answering service at no extra charge, so there is no excuse for taking calls while the car is moving.

The answer to your next question is yes, I have done, sometimes. But in future I shall leave the phone alone when it rings and collect messages later. The world will survive without hearing from me for a few minutes.

Full moon over Everest lights yak track across the Roof of the World

Lord Montagu and survivors reach Kathmandu on the Peking-Paris rally

Nepalese children push Jennifer Gillies and Francesca Sternberg's Volvo Amazon out of the sand of a river bed

When we left Peking two weeks ago there were several bets by the officials as to how many vehicles would reach Kathmandu. The man in charge of shipping ordered 40 containers ready to return cars forced to retire.

It hardly inspired confidence, but in fact 90 of the 96 cars that started from Peking made it. Just as surprising is the list of cars leading the competitive category The first six included a Ford Anglia (Broderick), Citroën 2CV (Richmond and Newman), Ford Cortina (Catt), Chevrolet Camaro (Howard Bellm), an Iranian Peykan Hunter and the Rover P5 of Jonathan Lux and David Drew. Sadly, David Drew was taken ill and had to be flown home shortly after leaving Kathmandu. But I was grateful to accept the role of navigator to Jonathan Lux, which enabled me to continue following the retirements of my own Vauxhall Prince Henry and of John Matheson's Rolls-Royce Phantom V in which I had hitched a ride.

The last week has subjected cars and drivers to terrible punishment with roads and conditions impossible to describe, but most got through to earn them two days' respite in Kathmandu.

The girls continue to do well, although the British team of Francesca Sternberg and Jennifer Gillies in their Volvo Amazon "Gordon" had to get mechanics to repair their suspension after arriving without shock absorbers. The American women (Dodwell and Obart) in their Hillman Hunter crashed off the road and had to be literally lifted back by the locals then repaired by our excellent back-up team.

We got a tremendous welcome from the Nepalese and, as Nepal's first motorsport event, we were honoured by the royal patronage of King Mehendra and visited by the Crown Prince Dependra. Whole towns turned out and schoolchildren waved Red Cross flags — not to suggest that we particularly needed medical attention.

There were several magic moments, especially when we camped near Everest and had a clear sunset and full moon to follow. Our last night in China was in a deserted hotel with pigs as our camp companions so one can imagine the joy of arriving in Nepal and being able to read the signs, see the smartly turned-out police and signs like "Nightingdale English Boarding School".

I could not recommend this "Roof of the World" yak track for fun or tourism, but I feel proud to have been on the first rally to cross China from north to south and among the first Westerners to drive across China, into Tibet and Nepal across Friendship Bridge which was closed when this rally was first dreamt up. It is a great experience and a good chance to prove what Prince Borghese tried to prove in 1907, that frontiers should not matter to motorists.

One banner in Nepal read "Peking and perish." We are determined not to. Most survivors made Delhi and we are on the way to Pakistan.

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1973 LANCIA Fulvia Berlina 53,000 miles 2 owners	£4,500
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1981 PORSCHE 924 Carrera GT	£16,000
1982 FORD Econoline cab pick-up truck F350 5.25lt ex USAF Lhd	£1,500
1982 MASERATI Quattroporte Automatic 46,000 miles	£12,750
1988 EVANTE 2-seat sports 3,600 miles	£12,000
1988 STEADMAN TS100 4.2 auto (SS100 style)	£20,000

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	139.55	148.71†	+ 1.41	..
Do NAV to Jun 20	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.99	118.56	+ 0.29	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	957.40	962.19†	+ 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	368.50	391.90†	+10.40	1.74
British Growth	84.09	89.93	+ 1.48	1.43
UK Small Cos	76.50	81.81†	+ 0.16	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	97.85	104.42	+ 1.13	2.11
Geared UK Index	2335.58	2485.62†	+72.00	5.25
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	113.64	121.53†	+ 1.65	4.24
Corp Bd	79.93	82.54	+ 0.57	..
Monthly Inc	42.90	45.73†	+ 0.39	8.38
International Funds				
American Gen	299.70	316.70	− 7.90	.
American Strat	277.30	296.57	− 1.29	
JG US Index	2329.37	2454.37†	+ 3.00	4.00
European Gen	338.70	357.30	+ 5.80	0.64
European Strat	148.38	158.58	+ 1.81	
Japan Gen	130.50	138.10	+ 0.90	...
Asia Pacific	91.37	97.70		
Pacific Strat	151.13	161.63	− 1.02	
Greater China	294.65	315.14	− 9.60	
Latin America	129.66	138.66	− 0.08	.
Int Growth	183.80	196.57	+ 1.80	..
Balanced Europe	160.50	168.40	+ 8.00	2.28
Global Strategy	51.75	55.33	+ 0.01	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	849.20	903.50	+21.70	2.33
General Inc	692.10	736.30	+17.60	2.33
UK Growth Acc	587.50	625.00	+14.70	2.18
UK Growth Inc	375.70	399.70	+ 9.60	2.18
Higher Inc Acc #	1042.30	1108.90	+28.90	4.45
Higher Inc Inc #	546.80	581.80	+15.20	4.45
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	230.60	243.40	+ 3.30	5.30
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	96.04	101.40	+ 1.40	5.30
Nth America	445.00	473.50	− 2.10	
Europe	463.00	492.60	+ 7.80	0.01
Brit Excel	117.30	124.70	+ 2.90	2.32
Brit Fndntls Acc	142.30	151.40	+ 3.50	4.34
Brit Fndntls Inc	91.31	97.14	+ 2.20	4.34
Global Opps	119.80	127.50	+ 2.00	
Balanced Acc	74.88	79.66	+ 0.11	2.13
Balanced Inc	69.21	73.63	+ 0.11	2.13
Japan Acc	40.47	43.06	+ 1.05	
Pac Basin Acc	380.10	404.40	+ 0.30	1.15
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	140.40	149.00†	+ 1.50	6.12
High Inc Equity	219.90	235.30	+ 2.80	4.29
Worldwide Bond	274.60	291.20†	+ 3.50	3.40
American Growth	528.00	564.00	− 8.10	0.30
Asian Pacific	319.20	341.40	− 2.80	0.40
Assets & Earnings	342.30	366.10	+ 3.60	2.55
Euro Capital Acc	251.00	268.40	+ 5.60	0.74
Extra Inc	43.71	48.50†	+ 0.13	8.95
General	314.20	334.30†	+ 4.40	2.93
Global Opps	84.09	89.46†	+ 0.75	0.36
Japan	92.55	98.98	− 1.16	
Managed Inc	52.54	55.89†	+ 0.53	4.03
Mastertrust	193.30	206.70	+ 1.90	1.07
US Emerging Cos	228.10	244.00	− 1.10	
Ethical	87.56	93.15	+ 0.97	1.96
International	156.00	166.00	+ 1.20	0.52
Dividend & Growth	80.91	86.07	+ 0.86	4.05
Global Fxd Int & Sec	77.66	82.91	+ 0.03	2.44
Latin America	98.04	104.30†	+ 0.10	0.64
Capital Reserve	152.20	152.30	+ 0.90	4.59
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 9500				
NSP UK Growth	113.20	120.40	+ 3.20	1.97
Equity Income #	156.10	166.00†	+ 3.90	2.66
Extra Income #	297.50	316.20†	+ 6.30	6.43
Smaller Cos	104.80	111.40†		2.90
International	136.50	145.20	+ 2.70	1.25
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	79.91	85.12	− 1.11	
Emerging Mkts	77.46	80.67	− 0.07	0.13
European	180.67	187.86	+ 3.53	
Extra Income #	56.74	59.71†	+ 1.32	5.12
Far East Emg Ecn	113.33	118.87	− 0.13	0.74
Fixed Interest #	27.72	28.82†	+ 0.44	8.12
Fixed Inv Tst #	170.72	179.23	+ 3.74	9.42
Japan	171.50	178.18†	+ 3.17	
Latin American	81.75	85.66†	− 0.22	
Pacific	75.62	79.39	+ 0.51	0.12
Property	87.20	91.55	+ 1.73	1.51
UK Emerging Cos	69.04	74.60	+ 0.65	0.74
UK Growth	70.09	73.00	+ 2.83	1.35
Aber World Port #	93.97	98.91	+ 1.46	2.54
Ethical	85.98	89.41	+ 1.59	1.03
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.86	50.85†	+ 0.38	6.84
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2478.00	2586.00	+17.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resdt Property #	109.20	116.10		4.89
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	107.20	113.74†	+ 1.86	1.84
Income Builder Inc	96.77	102.95	+ 2.41	3.41
For Alld Dunbar see Threadneedle				
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	136.70	142.00		
Foundtn Persl Pens	80.42	83.56		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	465.60	495.30†	+ 1.70	
Bond	124.60	130.90	+ 0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	116.30	123.70	+ 1.30	1.89

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Sec Inc	162.52	163.18	+ 2.23	8.76
Fxd Int Sec Acc	169.90	170.58	+ 2.32	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	922.17	936.11	+10.17	3.72
Investment Acc	4391.91	4458.29	+48.39	..
Fixed Int Inc	134.27	134.81	+ 0.74	8.60
Fixed Int Acc	261.07	262.11	+ 1.45	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	94.52	99.44	− 0.44	5.04
Beck Gro-Tech	46.76	49.38	+ 0.74	
Acorn Ethical Trs	221.06	232.97	+ 1.38	0.40
City Fin Assets	90.56	95.08	+ 4.24	1.78
City Fin Intl	95.76	100.56	− 0.65	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	356.54	379.30	+ 8.77	1.64
Buckley Wrld Grth	157.52	165.97†	+ 0.37	
Shaw Utilities	79.41	81.11	+ 1.85	4.29
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	63.60	67.69	− 0.38	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grth	100.53	106.95	− 1.07	
Dragon Growth	66.75	71.38	+ 0.29	0.95
Equity High Inc	112.90	119.47†	+ 3.15	3.42
-do- Accum	169.50	179.36	+ 4.72	3.42
Extra Income Inc	28.62	30.13	+ 0.15	6.28
Extra Income Acc	32.84	34.57	+ 0.17	6.28
European Grth	84.28	89.18	+ 1.51	0.07
Evergreen	37.04	38.81	+ 0.82	
General Equity	133.02	140.39	+ 2.95	2.45
Japan Growth	39.85	42.50	+ 0.35	.
Pedigree Grth	79.18	83.76	+ 2.26	1.93
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.47	43.88	+ 0.48	1.41
-do- Accum	44.42	47.00	+ 0.52	1.41
Retirement Inc #	33.62	35.77	+ 0.85	5.27
Special Sits	54.42	58.52	+ 0.45	3.07
UK & Overseas	72.36	76.57	+ 0.87	0.53
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	81.94	85.35†	+ 1.41	3.62
Capital	101.28	105.50†	+ 1.98	2.09
High Income	56.02	58.35†	+ 0.40	6.34
Top 50	73.03	78.07†	+ 2.06	2.12
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	226.87	238.14	+ 8.57	4.08
Long Gilt	49.68	51.73	+ 0.49	5.32
Monthly Inc Plus	56.76	59.13	+ 0.47	7.58
Preference Share	54.71	57.00	+ 0.51	6.84
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	168.50	170.33	+ 4.23	5.26
Managed Fund	89.04	92.76	+ 1.26	2.44
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.38	54.57	+ 0.41	1.56
-do- Accum	62.64	65.26	+ 0.48	1.56
UK & General	123.77	128.94	+ 3.88	2.18
-do- Accum	164.08	170.93	+ 4.88	2.18
UK Growth	244.25	254.45	+ 8.44	1.54
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	374.72	386.20	+ 5.17	0.47
Far Eastern Gth	127.29	132.61	+ 0.76	0.21
Global Bond	75.71	78.87	+ 0.42	6.51
Japan Growth	103.23	107.54	+ 1.23	.
North Amer Grth	303.09	315.75	− 6.35	
Oriental Growth	79.78	83.11	− 0.35	0.59
Worldwide Growth	85.03	88.58	+ 0.69	0.29
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.57	93.57	+ 0.09	6.09
Homemaker Fund	105.42	112.16	+ 1.88	1.92
Dollies Fund	181.33	192.90†	+ 5.09	1.64
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	40.38	43.15†	+ 0.43	2.87
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	199.90	212.70	+ 2.70	1.68
Income	87.30	92.77	+ 2.83	3.71
European	97.37	103.58	+ 2.47	0.14
Recovery	200.00	212.80	+ 7.70	1.94
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1167.10	1186.20		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	87.97	93.40	+ 0.79	0.34
Fellowship Tst	117.90	125.40†	+ 1.50	1.17
Income #	340.80	362.50	+ 9.40	3.79
-do- Accum #	926.90	986.00	+25.60	3.79
Smaller Cos	230.10	244.70	− 0.90	0.75
-do- Accum	287.50	305.80	− 0.90	0.75
Gth Portfolio	116.70	124.10†	+ 2.60	1.27
High Inc Port #	99.64	106.00†	+ 2.90	3.94
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1942.40	1983.60	− 7.30	0.52
UK Small Cos	2294.10	2383.10	+27.10	2.88
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	251.30	259.10	+ 2.30	
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	212.20	225.70	+ 4.10	1.43
UK High Inc Inc	226.90	241.30	+ 3.80	2.95
-do- Accum	316.30	336.40	+ 5.30	2.95
UK Prsl & F I Inc	64.66	68.63	+ 0.89	5.39
Envrnmnt Opps	127.70	135.80	+ 2.80	0.74
UK Smlr Cos	75.32	80.12†	+ 1.24	0.84
Extra Income Inc	53.81	57.22†	+ 0.17	6.06

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gwth Port Inc	81.98	86.69†	+ 0.44	0.61
Gwth Port Acc	83.74	88.55†	+ 0.45	0.60
Inc Port Inc	74.00	78.10	+ 0.57	3.49
Inc Port Acc	84.84	89.54	+ 0.64	3.32
Wwide Port	66.83	70.67	+ 0.47	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 693512				
Equity Dist @	737.30	737.30	+18.10	2.00
-do- Accum @	1560.00	1560.00	+39.00	2.00
Equity Income #	123.70	123.70†	+ 2.80	4.37

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	351.80	370.70	− 6.40	.
-do- Accum	376.20	396.30	− 7.00	
American Opps	150.20	159.30	+ 1.40	
-do- Accum	152.10	161.30	+ 1.40	
British Blue Chip	121.50	129.90†	+ 0.80	2.34
-do- Accum	161.10	170.90†	+ 3.90	2.34
Cash	101.00	101.00	+ 0.10	6.60
-do- Accum *	156.00	156.00	+ 0.10	6.60
Emerging Mkts	162.90	175.20	− 0.60	0.18
-do- Accum	165.20	177.60	− 0.60	0.18

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Tactical Allocn @	85.98	85.98†	+ 2.14	4.92
European @	186.00	186.00†	+ 3.20	0.15
Far Eastern @	214.70	214.70†	+ 1.60	
Fixed Interest @	58.48	58.48†	+ 0.60	6.55
Gilt @	99.18	99.18	+ 1.52	5.94
Global Growth @	91.01	91.01	+ 1.07	
Intl Bond @	49.98	49.98†	+ 0.22	5.32
Japanese @	63.71	63.71	+ 1.63	.
North American @	288.10	288.10	− 1.90	
Pacific Growth @	116.10	116.10†	− 0.60	0.34
Pacific Index @	44.57	44.57	− 0.46	2.22
UK Index @	97.35	97.35	+ 2.42	2.62
UK Recovery @	136.90	136.90	+ 2.90	1.45
UK Smaller Cos @	174.30	174.30†	+ 1.60	1.11
US Index @	112.50	112.50	− 1.30	0.76
European Index @	118.00	118.00†	+ 2.30	1.03
Japan Index @	32.46	32.46	+ 0.52	
Worldwide @	115.60	115.60	+ 1.90	0.96
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	70.57	75.15	+ 1.75	1.95
Income	82.13	87.85	+ 2.23	3.58
Far East	42.37	45.31	− 0.16	
North American	171.50	182.90	− 1.40	
Global	102.90	109.90	+ 0.80	0.29
European	131.10	140.00	+ 3.30	0.57
Japan	77.35	83.07	+ 0.00	
Intl Currency Bd	57.20	60.60†	− 0.03	5.29
SE Asia	88.86	95.02	− 0.60	0.45
UK Cap Growth	125.50	134.20†	+ 1.60	1.24
Premium Trust	102.70	109.80	+ 0.70	1.62
Managed	80.53	86.61†	+ 0.79	1.51
Cash	51.40	51.40	+ 0.05	6.44
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	507.80	540.30	+ 4.70	1.85
-do- Accum	1225.00	1304.00	+22.00	1.85
Contl Euro Gth	100.70	106.00	− 1.00	0.01
-do- Accum	109.00	114.90	+ 1.10	0.01
Extra Inc #	351.60	374.10	+ 1.70	3.47
Extra Inc Acc #	996.70	1061.20	+ 4.00	3.47
FTSE 100 Inc	156.30	168.50	+ 3.60	1.96
FTSE 100 Acc	168.70	179.50	+ 3.80	1.96
German Gth	177.10	186.50	+ 5.30	
-do- Accum	185.70	195.50	+ 5.60	
Growth Port	778.90	828.60†	+12.90	0.16
-do- Accum	820.30	873.30	+23.30	0.16
High Interest Inc	108.10	112.10†	+ 0.30	6.71
High Interest Acc	121.50	126.00	+ 0.40	6.71
Hi Reserve Inc #	122.30	130.20†	+ 1.00	5.37
Hi Reserve Acc #	139.70	148.70	+ 1.20	5.37
Income Inc #	702.90	747.60	+10.70	2.98
Income Acc #	2037.00	2170.00	+37.00	2.98
Income Port	671.20	714.30	+ 4.20	3.80
-do- Accum	779.10	828.90	+ 4.70	3.80
Japan Growth	87.92	93.54	+ 2.07	
-do- Accum	89.23	93.97	+ 2.08	
Master Invst	77.95	82.92	+ 1.07	1.07
-do- Accum	91.58	97.43	+ 1.25	1.07

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Growth	419.90	444.30	+ 6.40	0.43
-do- Accum	458.30	485.10	+ 7.10	0.43
European Income	104.40	110.40	+ 1.20	3.67
-do- Accum	157.20	166.40	+ 1.90	3.67
General	718.30	763.40†	+15.00	2.07
-do- Accum	1498.00	1592.00†	+31.00	2.07
Global Bond	129.00	135.50†	+ 0.80	4.14
-do- Accum	179.40	188.50†	+ 1.20	4.14
Gold & General	156.40	166.50	+ 3.60	0.44
-do- Accum	160.80	172.20	+ 3.60	0.44
Govt Securities	100.50	103.60	+ 0.90	5.43
-do- Accum	221.20	227.90	+ 1.90	5.43
High Yield Bd	108.00	110.70†	+ 0.80	6.33
-do- Accum	121.10	124.10†	+ 0.80	6.33
Income	236.70	251.40†	+ 5.00	3.58
-do- Accum	406.60	431.80†	+ 8.70	3.58
Inc Portfolio #	129.80	137.40	+ 2.20	4.66
-do- Accum #	146.60	156.10	+ 2.50	4.66
Intl Opps	667.10	711.60	+13.50	0.70
-do- Accum	906.50	966.90	+18.40	0.70
Japan	166.30	177.40	+ 4.60	
-do- Accum	170.70	182.10	+ 4.70	
New Europe	290.80	310.20	+ 4.00	0.90
-do- Accum	305.30	325.70	+ 4.20	0.90
Pacific	98.56	105.10	− 0.90	0.21
-do- Accum	106.30	113.40	0.90	0.21
Recovery	552.50	589.30	+ 9.40	1.54
-do- Accum	735.80	784.80	+12.70	1.54
UK Smaller Cos	66.35	70.77†	+ 0.65	1.43
-do- Accum	77.69	82.87†	+ 0.75	1.43
Portfolio	110.40	117.00	+ 1.80	2.50
-do- Accum	138.10	146.40	+ 2.10	2.50
Managed Gth	143.20	149.60	+ 2.10	1.69
Managed Inc	139.60	144.80	+ 2.20	3.27
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
[illegible] Plus	197.36	209.96	+ 3.61	0.11
Portfolio	95.62	101.72	+ 1.63	1.18
UK Income Inc	113.78	121.04†	+ 2.19	3.90
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	80.95	84.76	+ 1.29	2.45
-do- Accum	90.60	94.87	+ 1.45	2.45
British Tst	137.20	143.70	+ 4.40	1.81
-do- Accum	167.80	175.70	+ 5.40	1.81
Corp Bond Inc	104.90	108.70	+ 0.40	6.51
-do- Accum	113.20	117.30	+ 0.40	6.51
Extra High Inc	84.71	88.70	+ 1.67	5.84
-do- Accum #	190.40	199.40	+ 1.90	5.84
FTSE 100 Acc	93.33	97.73	+ 2.71	1.95
FTSE 100 Dist	85.89	89.94	+ 2.50	1.85
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.19	61.58†	+ 0.69	5.99
-do- Accum	198.70	206.70†	+ 2.30	5.99
High Yield	292.30	306.10	+ 6.70	5.33
-do- Accum #	838.40	877.90	+19.20	5.33
Household Names	118.70	119.30†	+ 3.40	1.21
Income	402.10	421.00	+11.10	3.56
-do- Accum #	978.10	1024	+26.80	3.56
Money Market UT	49.61	49.62	+ 0.05	6.37
-do- Accum	86.87	86.89	+ 0.09	6.37
Monthly Income	115.60	121.00†	− 2.60	3.92
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	173.20	184.30	+ 3.90	1.71
European Growth	179.50	190.30	+ 4.60	
Gilt & Fixed	112.10	118.90	+ 1.30	5.91
Income	132.90	141.40	+ 2.20	3.66
Japan Growth	41.27	43.75	+ 1.18	
Managed	98.88	105.20	+ 1.30	2.27

HOME GROAN 54

Borrowers seek amnesty over mortgage debts

WEEKEND MONEY

FINAL CHAPTER 53

Beginning of the end for Deutsche scandal

Anne Ashworth and **Patrick Collinson** discuss strategy with advisers to 'high net worth individuals'

Where super-rich really, really count

How many millionaires are there in the UK? Five thousand? Ten thousand? The answer is closer to 120,000, with the National Lottery alone producing nearly 500 so far and adding a further two to three every week. Showbusiness also continues to swell the ranks of the super-rich, with the Spice Girls being worth £4 million each at the last estimate.

There are also the members of the new Super Class, the accountants, lawyers and City dealers with earnings of £300,000 plus and bonuses that can exceed their salaries.

Reaching out to look after the money of this fast-growing band of millionaires and those close to achieving this status are the private client stockbrokers and asset managers who offer personalised, bespoke investment management services. Welcome to the world of "wealth management strategies" for "high net worth individuals".

At the top end of the private client investment management market are huge blue-chip houses such as Schroders, Mercury Asset Management, Newton, James Capel and Morgan Grenfell.

The basic cost per year for discretionary management, where the investment house relieves you of the burden of making your own decisions, is around 1 per cent of your portfolio, plus VAT, plus extras.

The type of service you can expect depends on how much money you have. If you approach Schroders with a £200,000 pile, you will be offered a discretionary unit trust service. The firm requires £1m before it will run a portfolio of directly-held shares on your behalf.

The high street banks are also keen to have their share of the high net worth individual market, offering fund management services through their Mayfair-based private banking divisions. Each of these clearing bank subsidiaries feels itself to be superior to its fellows.

Barclays Private Bank focuses primarily on the bosses of family-owned businesses, offering them corporate advisory services, as well as banking and investment management. Customers who are referred from Barclays branches have an average of £1 million invested.

Coutts, a division of NatWest, offers "integrated wealth management services", that is, banking, investment management and estate planning. The bank, one of the world's leading providers of trusts, targets the wealthy young professional, "with a busy life and complex financial needs".

For those "exceptionally wealthy" customers with assets in excess of $100 million (£61.73 million), Coutts offers the de-luxe Latymer Service. Under the terms of a discretionary management service, you give authority to the manager to buy and sell investments on your behalf without obtaining prior approval on each and every occasion. The client can set whatever restrictions he or she wants — such as a ban on investing in tobacco shares, specific shares which must not be sold and so on. The broker is then free to take advantage of market opportunities as they arise, without having to contact the client and ascertain their wishes.

A typical £1 million portfolio is likely to be 50-60 per cent invested in a range of UK shares, with the balance spread between overseas equity and bond markets. As the total sum invested in an individual overseas market is unlikely to be large enough to warrant direct share investment, pooled vehicles such as unit and investment trusts are bought to gain exposure and diversify risk. The service and administration should also be superior to that offered by a unit trust. A contract note is sent every time a transaction is effected, and detailed reviews and valuations are sent on a regular basis. Cash in the portfolio is also managed on an active basis to ensure that high interest rates are obtained.

Above all, the wealthy investor can expect the immediate attention of an investment manager at the other end of the line.

Dean Lush, director of Rothschild's private client division, said: "People with these sums of money are understandably upset if they are not treated individually. You mustn't be blasé about performance, but you downplay personal service at your peril in this business."

How much does it cost? Charges are typically a percentage of the total funds under management, with a sliding scale reflecting the amount managed, from around 1 per cent falling to as low as 0.2 per cent per year on large investments. There are also stockbroking commissions for each share purchase or sale which can considerably raise the manager's bill. These will be very high if the manager is a "churn and burn 'em" man, who frequently switches in and out of investments, so hiding his mistakes and increasing his firm's revenues at the same time.

These fees bring no guarantee of superior performance. There are many tales of those whose fortunes have shrunken while in the care of some blue-blooded firm. Part of the problem may lie in the personnel. It is claimed that first-class minds are kept busy with pension money, while the second-rate are shunted into the private client department.

Previously it was difficult to assess whether a manager was doing a passable or a deplorable job, as there were no published statistics. However, WM, the performance statistics group, now prepares peer group benchmarks that allow investment managers to be compared with the competition.

Who would you trust?, page 52

VIRGIN RECORDS

Spice work if you can get it: the Spice Girls have made it into the ranks of the mulfimillionaires and are now worth £4 million apiece, according to the latest estimate

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Taxpayers told not to panic over looming deadline

Hundreds of thousands of people are waiting until the very last minute to fill in self-assessment tax returns. According to the Inland Revenue, only 3.7 million from a total of eight million people had returned their forms by Thursday. Those that fail to meet the deadline of September 30 will have to work out their own tax liability and must submit their forms and payment by January 31.

The Inland Revenue remains confident that it will receive between four million and 4.8 million self-assessment tax returns by the end of this month.

Those that just miss this deadline, and are relying on the Inland Revenue to work out their tax liability, may not get their tax assessment notices before the end of January. An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "What we have said about those that miss the deadline is that we do not guarantee that we will return the notices by the end of January."

Those that miss this final deadline face an instant £100 fine. They will also be charged 8.5 per cent interest on overdue payments.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants is warning taxpayers not to panic. It points out that, if taxpayers should miss the end-of-the-month deadline, they can always get an accountant to work out what their tax liability is before the end of January next year. Richard Shooter, of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said: "There has been a lot of publicity over the September 30 deadline, but the more important date is January 31."

According to a recent survey from Save & Prosper, the investment house, almost half of those people who had received a self-assessment tax return from the Revenue had not yet completed and returned it.

Almost half of those questioned (40 per cent) said that they already had or would choose an accountant to help them to complete their forms — with nearly one in three people saying that they would be interested in using a specialist tax service.

In response to the findings of this service, Save & Prosper has launched a special service to help people to complete their self-assessment forms. The service costs around £40.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Heroes peep into the sun

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Shares in America's smaller companies have, overall, trailed limply behind blue chips in the long Wall Street boom. Now they are at last dancing to centre stage. At least they have been for the past couple of months. That is long enough to set analysts and salesfolk asking whether the same might happen here.

A survey by Baring Asset Management of its offices around the world reveals that small companies have fared as badly in Japan and continental Europe. The bursting of Japan's financial bubble sent investors fleeing for cover in the safest thing they could find, which was not third-line stocks.

On the Continent, also slower to climb out of recession, a representative smaller companies index has lagged big companies by two fifths since 1990. There are lots of tiddlers in badly hit sectors such as retail, property and building, with few in booming sectors such as banking and ethical drugs.

In the UK, stocks worth less than £250 million have been dull rather than disastrous for most of the past three years, since recovering from the last recession. But a big gap has opened since mid-March. Over the past six months the FTSE small capitalisation index has shown no gain, while the FTSE 100 has put on 20 per cent. True, prices have perked up over the past five weeks, but that has merely made good the losses of June and July.

In London, as on the Continent and even in New York, stock market prices have been driven by wholesale investment funds, often buying a country rather than a company. These funds may replicate a blue chip index or focus on a few favoured sectors. That way lies neglect for more modest domestic outfits that are unlikely to have much interest for big investors beyond their borders.

Naturally, this neglect has been rationalised by analysts. Big multinationals have had more scope to cut costs, more resources to reinvent themselves than the supposedly nimbler small fry. So their profits can keep growing faster than the economies in which they sell, or than companies that rely on their domestic economy. This may explain long-term rerating but hardly the change of fortunes since March.

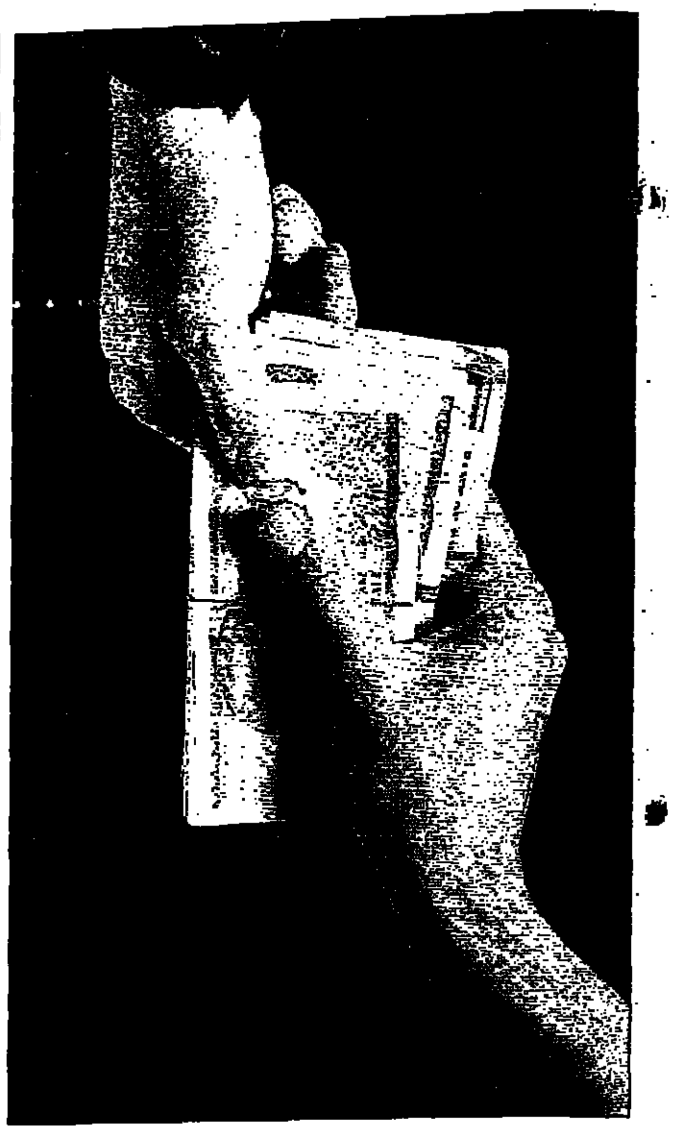
That underperformance could now make the lesser breed a reasonable each-way bet. If the FTSE 100 flies onward and upward to 7000, as Natwest's Bob Semple projects, smaller stocks should be dragged in the wake by investors looking for something a little cheaper. That is surely what is happening in America. Benign economic conditions help those who need stability most. If stock markets falter, investors may try to distance themselves from the blue chip bubble. At least the little chaps do not have so far to fall.

The trouble with such generalities is that there really is no small companies sector and no average company. That is why, for instance, Barings can claim success for its Europe Select Trust when the "sector" has been a dog. The only thing that unites them is not being big. Even that is mere timing. Some are dying giants, others dullards valued chiefly for income. Tomorrow's heroes, the ones we all want to invest in, are always a risky, sought-after minority.

Investing directly in riskier small companies requires homework, or a broker you can trust. There is a strong case for spreading risk in a fund, but even here, since there is no sector, you rely more than usual on a fund manager's skill. Professionals rate Credit Suisse Smaller Companies and Invesco UK Smaller Companies among several decent unit trusts.

As an each-way bet, normal investment trusts have extra appeal. They sell at a cautious average discount of 15 per cent to net market value of their portfolios. The Perpetual and 3i Smaller Companies trusts look sound. Ivory & Sime's UK Smaller Companies and UK Discovery, which is committed to minnows like the AIM Trust, have more speculative appeal. The £3 billion 3i itself offers exposure to lots of unquoted companies but is expensive, swept up in the popularity of banks.

There is plenty of choice in trusts, as in small company shares, but avoid those with oddities in their capital structure. There is enough risk already to offset the potential rewards to come.



Check out the charges before handing over your cash

Who would you trust with your millions?

Even those who have toiled to acquire riches can sometimes find their wealth too much of a responsibility. Millionaires want someone to guide them in their search for an investment manager and call on the services of an intermediary.

Anthony Yadgaroff, of Allenbridge, a firm of advisers based conveniently in Mayfair, takes aspiring clients on a round tour of suitable managers. He urges them to research the market thoroughly and to assume responsibility for their cash. His most difficult task is to lower people's expectations: "They see advertisements for the top-performing unit trusts and believe that their money can also grow by 20 per cent in a year."

Investment management firms will put forward their most charming and personable employee to pitch for the account in the knowledge that the personality of the front man can clinch the deal. But Mr Yadgaroff recommends that his client meets not only the clean-cut marketing man but also the fund manager who will be in charge of the money.

Mr Yadgaroff also advises a close examination of the charges: "It's a little-known fact that some firms of managers have targets for the amounts of stockbroking commissions that they have to earn. This means that they may be tempted to undertake unnecessary deals."

Simon Philip, a partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, has the job of guiding National Lottery winners on their investment options. He says that, in the majority of cases, the winnings are so huge that winners aren't interested in passing their money over to be invested in stocks and shares, and leave it in the bank instead. "We are talking about people whose views on finance are very different from people who, say, may be investing money made from selling a business. Anything that smacks of risk puts them off."

The key thing for most wealthy people, however, is the quality of personal service. Mr Philip said: "You might imagine that investment performance is everything, but personal service is also vital, and more people get sacked for poor service than poor performance."

> ‘Some firms may be tempted to undertake unnecessary deals’

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Wild child of investment vehicles

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Children do not always turn out as their parents hope. Kenneth Clarke planned that his brainchild, the corporate bond Pep, would be an unassuming investment. It would appeal to those nervous about shares but disenchanted with building society returns.

The erstwhile Chancellor envisaged that his creation would channel funds into Midlands engineering companies. Instead, the bond Pep has emerged as something of a sophisticate, frolicking *Hello!*-style on the beach in Barbados, as well as toiling away in Dudley.

More evidence of this complicated personality can be found in the yields available on bond Peps. From the outset, investors were discouraged from comparing building society rates with bond yields because Peps were more risky. Direct comparison would now be extremely difficult, however, as aspiring bond Pep holders must look at both the running yield and the gross redemption yield. The former shows the current income payout, the latter shows what the income would be if the current portfolio were to remain unchanged. If this figure is smaller than the running yield (now a frequent occurrence) then this suggests that the contents of the Pep's portfolio are more speculative than those that Mr Clarke had in mind (see page 55).

Some popular Peps now contain bonds issued by exotic foreign states. The Commercial Union Pep has a holding, albeit small, of Barbadian stock.

More complexities arise when the annual charges are examined. Some managers deduct these from income, others from the capital, a covert way of making the income more eye-catching. The result of all this is that an investment intended to be simple has become something comprehensible only to experts. In 1999 Peps will be replaced by individual savings accounts (Isas), which are also likely to hold bonds. The current Chancellor must ensure that the Isa does not inherit the failings of its predecessor.

Seek good advice

THE infamous Bernie Cornfeld, now deceased, invented the fund of funds. The concept, though not the Cornfeld rapacity, lives on in the broker fund.

Many reputable advisers refuse to sell these high-charge schemes, arguing that they represent poor value. Others continue this profitable trade, claiming that no one would invest in broker funds if they were not a good deal. Not so. People buy broker funds only because they mistakenly believe that advisers put clients' interests first.

The commission-hungry would surely find a way to circumvent any ban on these investments. The moral is always ask your adviser how much he stands to make.

Deutsche writes final chapter

Caroline Merrell reports on the end of a financial scandal that rocked Britain's investment industry

The final chapter in a financial scandal that rocked the investment industry more than a year ago was marked this week with a small ad in the press.

It revealed that Deutsche, the German banking group, no longer felt it necessary to guarantee to buy units in three European funds run by Morgan Grenfell, the blue-blooded fund manager. The advertisement said: "The funds have been trading successfully for a considerable period of time." This credit facility was set up by the bank after the suspension of the funds last summer, and the subsequent revelations concerning the activities of the funds' manager, Peter Young.

However, despite the resolution of the investment company's problems in the mind of Morgan Grenfell's owner, not all investors with holdings in the three trusts have been compensated.

Just over a year ago, Morgan Grenfell was forced to suspend dealing in the three trusts which were then worth a total of £1.4 billion. The funds were suspended when it was discovered that they held a high proportion of unquoted stocks. These shares were contributing to extreme volatility in the trusts.

Mr Young was exploiting a grey area in rules concerning the level of unquoted stocks that unit trusts could hold. When the unquoted stock was investigated by the company and regulators, it was difficult to find. Mr Young was suspended from his £300,000-a-year job and the Serious Fraud Office was called in to investigate. When trading in the funds after the three-day suspension restarted, more than £200 million worth of stock was sold by panic-stricken investors, and the price of units plummeted.

Deutsche Bank stepped in with a credit facility to ensure that the fund had enough cash to meet any redemptions. The bank also bought out £180 million of unquoted stock, and pledged to compensate the investors for losses.

Eventually, five top managers at Morgan Grenfell were sacked.

Frances Davies, head of pooled investment, said that there were about 90,000 unit accounts in the three trusts, and while most of the individual accounts have been compensated, some of those that held stock through nominee accounts have yet to receive compensation. Nominee accounts will have more than one investor. For example, Skandia has 40,000 investors who have holdings in the Morgan Grenfell European funds via other products — these investors have received compensation.

Ms Davies said: "Around £230 million will be paid out in compensation as a whole." She added that 85 per cent of the compensation money had been handed out. The fiasco could cost Deutsche Morgan Grenfell £450 million.

One investor who has received compensation is Antony Levi, a 33-year-old fashion agent. He was paid about £200 compensation on his £2,000 investment earlier in the year. Savers could either opt for more units in the funds, or choose the cash. He chose the cash. He is, however, continuing to invest money in the trust. He said: "I thought it was better to keep the investment going. I am taking a long-term view. If I reinvested the money elsewhere, then I would probably incur a whole new set of charges." He said the performance of his European trust had not been particularly good since the crisis last year, but he had decided to continue to hold it. He holds two other of Morgan Grenfell's unit trusts, which he says have performed much better. "The whole thing would put me off putting all my money with one fund manager again," he said.

Ms Davies said the whole fund had been substantially rebalanced since Mr Young's suspension. A high proportion of the unquoted stock had been sold. She said: "More than 70 per cent of the fund is now in mainstream quoted stocks." She said the company was working flat out to compensate the remaining investors.

ALAN WELLER

Antony Levi was paid about £200 for his £2,000 investment with Morgan Grenfell

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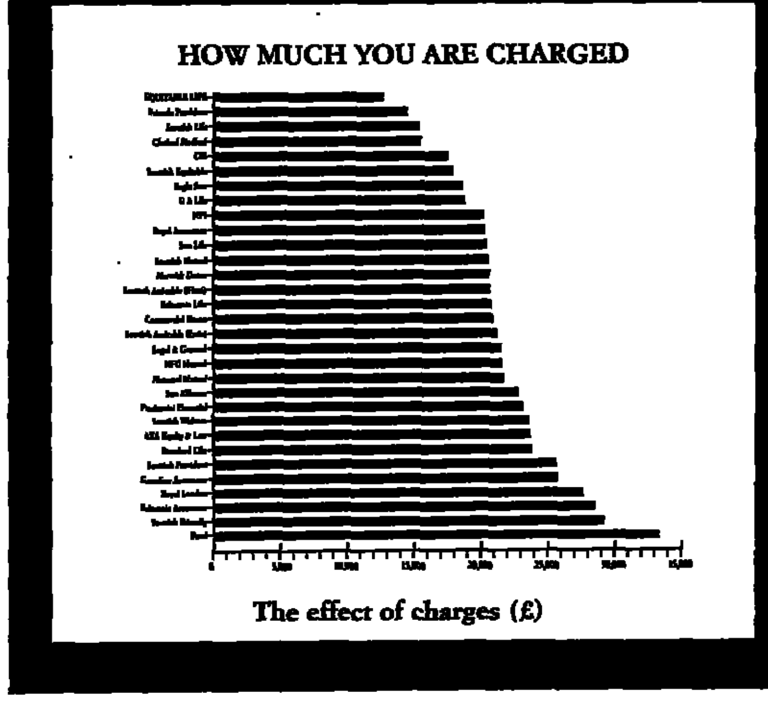

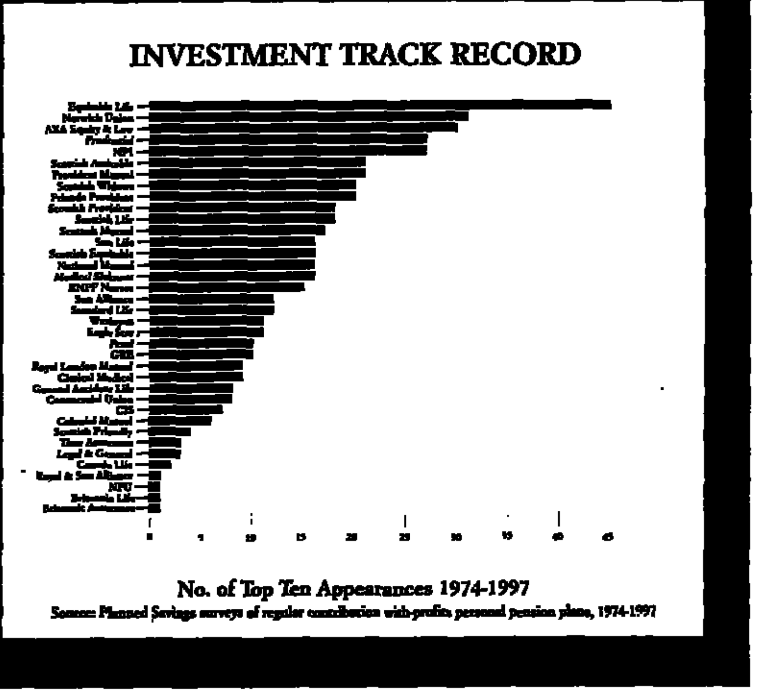

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1997

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the chaff.

PRICE

All companies are now required to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October 1996.

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Borrowers seek amnesty over mortgage debts

Lesley Mobbs is one of a growing number who assumed their debts had been written off

Sara McConnell

on a campaign to stop lenders acting years later to recover their money

Borrowers suddenly being chased for money they owe years after their homes were repossessed and sold at a loss during the recession are to mount a campaign calling for an amnesty for all those unable to pay their debts.

Ronald Severn, whose daughter and son-in-law, Phil and Lesley Mobbs, had their home repossessed by the Cheltenham & Gloucester in 1991, is spearheading the campaign. *The Times* revealed two months ago that the former building society was chasing the couple for debts totalling nearly £200,000 incurred in the early 1990s, although the family is living on state benefits.

Now Mr Severn says: "We want to bring pressure on all the C&Gs of this world. People are being left in ignorance for five years and the lenders write off the debt only to come alive if they think there's money." Mr Severn has enlisted the help of his MP and is calling on other borrowers to join him. He is hoping the Government will put pressure on lenders to back off in cases where borrowers have little hope of paying any of their debt. He stresses he is not demanding that all debts be rescinded but argues that people are being discouraged from rebuilding their lives and getting jobs because they risk having their money claimed by the lender.

Phil and Lesley Mobbs are among growing numbers of borrowers who assumed their debts had been written off after their homes were repossessed but are now being pursued by lenders years later. Many people lost their homes through relationship breakdowns or because they lost their jobs as the recession hit. Others believed they could hand in their keys and claim on insurance taken out to cover shortfalls if the property was repossessed and sold. But the policy covers the lender although the borrower pays for it. In most cases, however, the policy covered only part of the shortfall, leaving lenders to pursue borrowers for the rest.

Since the Mobbses' story was published, Weekend Money has heard of a number of other readers in a similar position. Many have sought the help of solicitors. Tim Pratt of Lloyd & Pratt of Newport, South Wales, writes: "I have heard from two separate clients within a space of about three months that their former lender is trying to recover a shortfall from them after the sale of their home by the lender some five or six years ago. In both cases the debt has been put into the hands of solicitors who have written to the client threatening proceedings to recover the debt but inviting them to give details of their present personal finances and hinting that a one-off lump sum payment at a discount might be accepted in settlement. In one case the lender is the Alliance & Leicester and in the second case the Abbey National."

In another case, Michael Dunn, a Staffordshire building society borrower, contacted his solicitor after receiving a letter out of the blue from a debt collection agency demanding repayment of a shortfall nine years after his home was repossessed.

So can lenders do this? Yes, they can. They have 12 years to chase borrowers for outstanding debts through the courts. How they do it is up to them. Some use debt collection agencies paid on results. Others use tracing agents. Some trawl regularly through credit reference records for clues that borrowers' fortunes have changed.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders' statement of practice says only that the lender "will notify the borrower either by letter or by telephone as soon as practicable of the amount of the shortfall". It continues: "The lender and the borrower will generally agree a repayment arrangement taking into account the borrower's current income and expenditure . . . if the borrower is unwilling to enter into an acceptable voluntary arrangement, the lender may use other enforcement remedies via the courts to seek repayment."

The C&G makes no secret of its policy of "active arrears management". If it has sold a property at a shortfall and failed to get any payment or agreement to pay from the borrower, it will "monitor" the situation for as long as it takes. It will contact borrowers directly and will wait in the wings until it judges that there is more chance of getting a payment.

Other lenders too will keep close tabs on borrowers. The Abbey National says: "We will continue to pursue debts although it must be based on the future possibility of the individual paying. It can take years. It's in everyone's interest to resolve outstanding debts and we will do deals and aim to get a settlement."

The Alliance & Leicester gives warning that it is "not a soft touch". If people refuse to make contact it will send in its solicitors. But it does not hire outside debt collection agencies, choosing to handle negotiations directly. John Caine, Alliance & Leicester's communications director, says: "It would be commercially stupid to have a stand-off. We would rather have an ongoing relationship. Retaining existing customers is cheaper than getting new ones."

Woolwich borrowers who try to disappear could be found by tracing agents, says Frank Bartlett, head of group lending. "If people have disappeared, we will look through their file and see if there are other addresses or details, such as an employer's address. If the trail has gone cold we could use tracing agents. Most have been dealt with within a couple of years and there wouldn't have been a conscious decision to delay."

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HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Shore thing, but CU's personal equity plan holds a small amount of highly speculative Barbadian and Mexican bonds

Age Concern joins the world of corporate bonds

Gavin Lumsden finds some managers risking fund capital

Investing in corporate bond Peps became cheaper this week with new deals from Legal & General and, surprisingly, Age Concern. However, disturbing signs have emerged that some fund managers may be risking investors' capital in their search for a high income.

Investors have poured some £3 billion into corporate bond Peps since their introduction just two years ago, attracted by the chance to earn about 7.5 per cent income tax-free while keeping their capital secure. So far investors have done well out of most corporate bond Peps. According to Micropal, a statistics provider, only one of the 39 corporate bond Peps around two years ago has failed to provide a positive return on a £6,000 investment (the maximum you can put in a Pep in one tax year).

Investors in Aberdeen Global Bond Pep, however, have basically been handed their money back since August 1995. Even if they reinvested the £579 of income back into the fund, they have still been left nursing a £26 loss, a dismal performance. Another seven Peps distributed modest amounts of income but left investors with a capital loss. For instance, investors who put £6,000 in the NPI High Income Bond two years ago would have had £824 income but would have only £5,856 of capital left in the Pep. This kind of capital loss can be a problem because it means there is a smaller pot of money left to generate money.

This still leaves 31 funds that have achieved their aims. Strangely, top of the pack is another fund in the Aberdeen stable. Aberdeen Fixed Interest has actually added £695 of capital and handed out over £1,300 of income. Other strong performers achieving the double whammy of income and capital growth have been M&G Corporate Bond, Henderson Preference & Bond and Commercial Union Monthly Income Plus.

The latter has just been chosen by Age Concern to be its first foray into financial services. Commercial Union's corporate bond Pep is currently yielding a high 7.96 per cent, and is one of the few Peps to pay monthly. Because of this service the Pep has been relatively expensive. Age Concern, however, has got the insurer to halve its initial fee to 2 per cent and throw in some life cover. If investors die within five years of taking out the Pep, CU will return the original investment to their estate. Its annual charge, however, remains at 1.25 per cent. Contact: 0800 455 400.

Legal & General also did its bit for investors this week when it renamed its Extra Income Profile Pep simply Corporate Bond Pep and slashed the annual charge from 1.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent. As there was no initial charge it is now the cheapest corporate bond Pep available. Its nearest rivals are Virgin Income and Fidelity Moneybuilder Income which both charge a 0.7 per cent annual fee.

> ‘If investors die within five years, CU will return the stake to the estate’

Low charges allow investors to get more for their money without taking on more risk. Cutting the annual fee by 0.75 per cent has enabled L&G to raise the yield on its Corporate Bond Pep by a similar amount to 7.5 per cent. If it had raised the yield without lowering the charges it would have had to target higher yielding stocks, which are inevitably more risky. In spite of their name corporate bond Peps can invest in a wide range of assets, some of which are more risky than others, and mix overseas stock with more familiar UK investments. In addition to bonds, many of these Peps will include preference shares, which aim to pay a higher dividend to investors, and convertibles, bonds which can be converted into shares at certain times.

Pensioners might be interested to learn that Commercial Union's Pep holds a small amount of highly speculative Barbadian and Mexican bonds as well as some worthless paper from Barings, the bank which had to be rescued after being sunk by Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader.

A good way of checking how much risk the fund manager is taking is to look at the difference between a Pep's gross redemption yield (GRY) and its running yield. The GRY, also known as the estimated total yield, shows what yield would be produced if the portfolio was left unchanged. The running yield shows how much income the Pep is currently producing. If the running yield is much higher than the GRY, there is a risk that your capital may suffer in the future.

Most corporate bond Peps have a GRY about 0.5 to 0.7 per cent higher than the running yield, reflecting the impact of their annual charge. A few, however, have a much wider difference and might be worth avoiding.

According to Baronworth Investment Services, a financial adviser which monitors corporate bond Peps, GT Global's High Yield Pep currently has a GRY of 4.88 per cent and a running yield of 7.21 per cent, nearly five times the gap that most of its competitors have. GT Global explained it was because it takes its 1 per cent annual management fee from the fund's capital rather than the income it produces. Charging to capital is controversial among financial advisers because it is an artificial way of boosting the amount of income investors receive and can endanger capital.

Mike Webb, the company's head of unit trusts, defended the company's practice, although he agreed there was an increased risk to holders' original investment. "We launched the Pep for people with an income requirement and are delivering that income in the most tax-efficient way. The benefit of charging to capital is that we do not have to go for as high-yielding stocks as those Peps which charge to income in order to generate our yield."

He calculated that the running yield was 6.25 per cent before charges were taken, much closer to the GRY figure. To be fair, the Pep is actually in the top 20 of corporate bond Peps delivering income and capital growth. Mr Webb said this reflected the fact that it only invested in A-graded stocks, the top band of investments.

Nevertheless, concerns remain. Britannia Fund Managers' Gilt & Fixed Interest Pep charges the same fees to capital as GT and has a yield differential of nearly 1.2 per cent, itself a relatively high figure but much better than GT's. Britannia says the running yield has risen recently after an increased investment in corporate bonds.

Equally worrying is the Murray Corporate Bond, which in spite of charging to income has a running yield of 8.89 per cent, the highest among all corporate bond Peps, and 1.5 per cent higher than its GRY.

Richard Eliott Lockhart of Murray Johnstone, the fund manager, denies that the company is taking too much risk in its search for income. He says many of the bonds it holds have seen prices fall and yields rise after recent tax changes which have forced City institutions to become sellers.

Whatever the reason, investing in bonds is a complicated business. If you are not seeking particularly high income you are probably best picking a low-cost corporate bond Pep from a fund manager with a track record that takes its fees from the income before passing it on to you.

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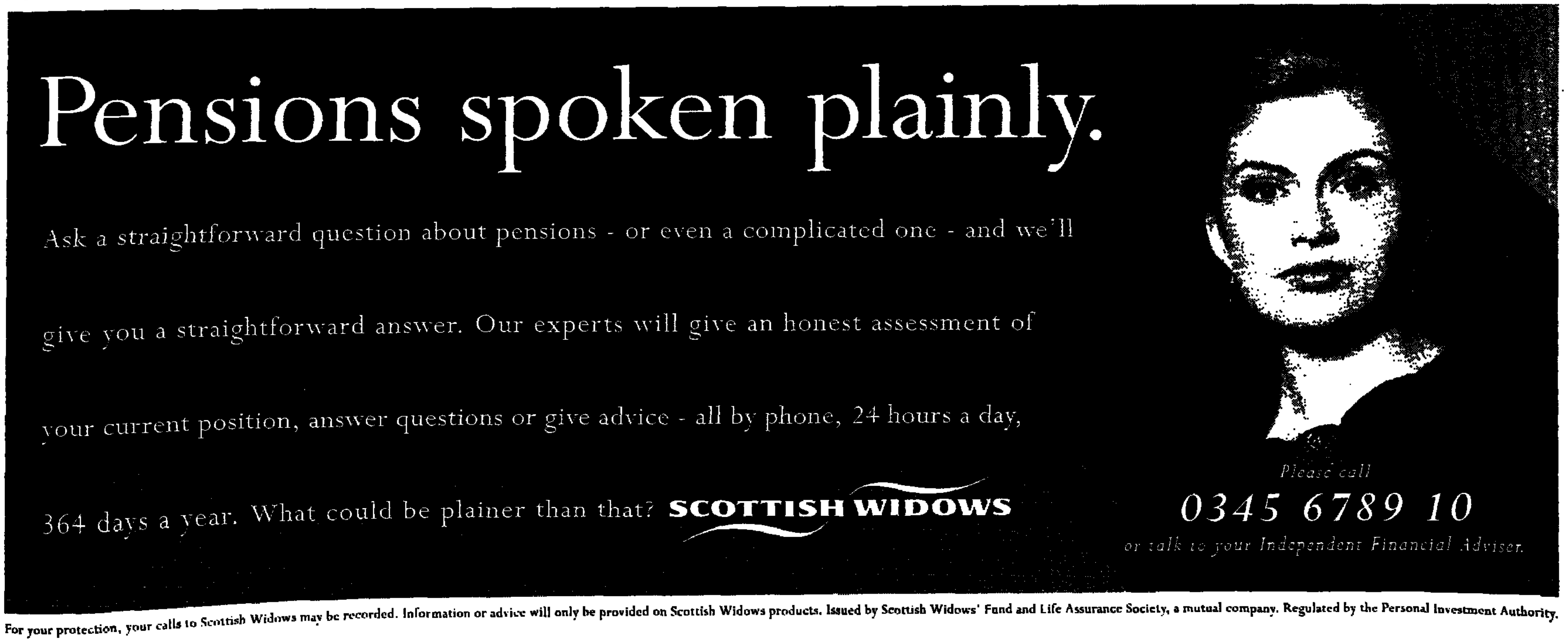

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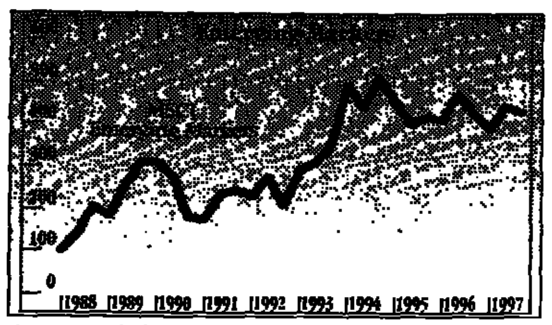

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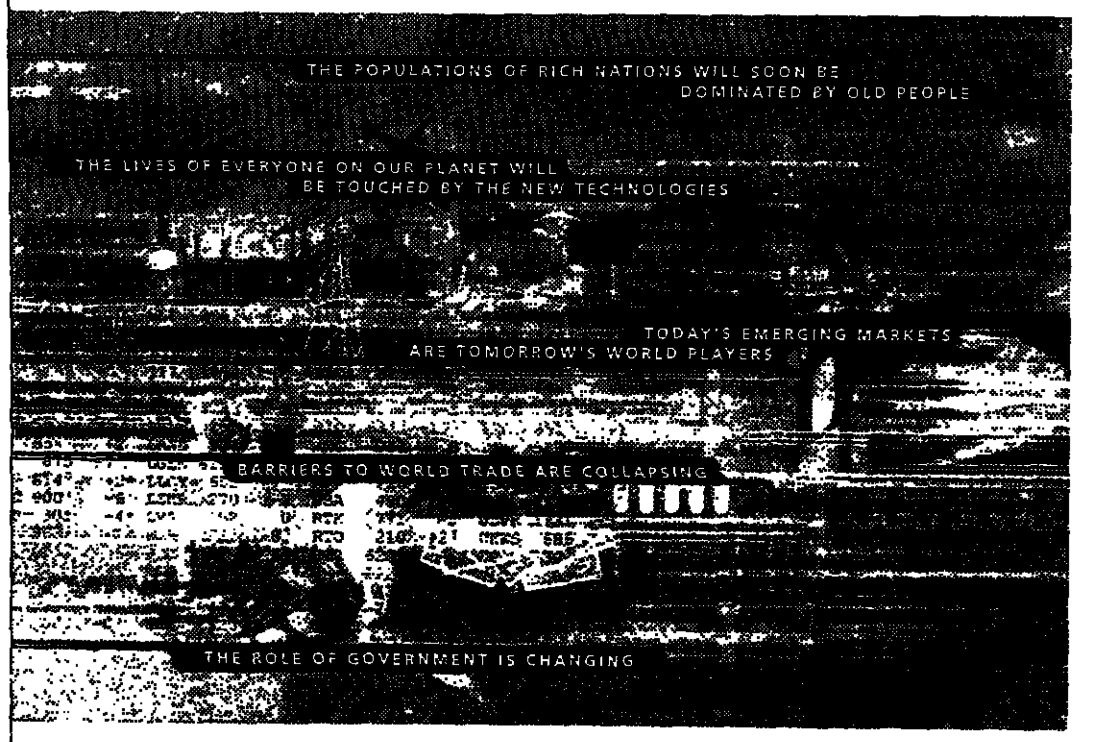
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Clare Stewart explains the science of investment disciplines

KENNETH JARECKE

George Soros, left, and Warren Buffett, masters of investment, relish the opportunities when markets are uncertain

Alchemy for the 20th century

INVESTMENT A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

George Soros made a mint betting against the pound in 1992. The famed investor Warren Buffett has cleaned up on numerous occasions to make him one of the wealthiest men in the US.

These and others, such as the late Sir James Goldsmith, who have emerged with pots of gold after forays into the stock market or foreign currency speculation, are frequently described as *modern-day alchemists*.

Rather like alchemy of the *medieval variety*, the assumption is often that there is some big secret out there waiting to be discovered. Once you have cracked it, runs the thinking, you can expect to be rich as Croesus as your investments soar in value.

But alchemy, whether using ancient or modern techniques, can be rather more complex. So much depends on adding just the right amount of leg of toad or wing of bat to the cauldron, and making sure you get the gas mark setting just right.

Stock market science is a complex discipline with numerous areas of specialisation, all of which try to understand and, as far as possible, anticipate key movements in share prices and so provide pointers as to when to pile in and when to sell up.

Traditionally, analysts have come to their conclusions about the value of a share based on a detailed evaluation of the company's performance. But technical analysts or chartists tend to look at the price first and the explanation after. They look at trends in a company, sector, foreign currency or even the whole stock market's price movement as the basis of their research, working from the assumption that past movements provide the basis for predicting the future, and that long-term patterns can be identified.

Guides such as the *Schwartz Stock Market Handbook*, (Burleigh Publishing, 01453 731173, price £22.95), for example, provide a month-by-month guide to stock market trends which highlight the months that have proved the most and least profitable for investors.

Chartists focus on changes that are driven by the actions of a wide spread of investors, so are less interested in why investors are choosing a particular share to buy or sell than when such trading is taking place and at what price. Such observations are expressed as charts showing price movements in linear or bar-chart form.

A number of patterns within price movements have been identified, which, on the basis of past experience, may indicate that a rising share price is about to peak or that it has bottomed out, hence it is the time to buy or sell that particular stock.

Investment, as with any discipline, has numerous theorists. One particular theory that is often referred to is value investment. In recent times this has been most identified with Warren Buffett, who turned Berkshire Hathaway, *his investment vehicle*, from a struggling textile business *to a* conglomerate where profits last year soared to $2.49 billion.

In 1965, when Mr Buffett took control of Berkshire Hathaway, its shares were traded at about $18; today its shares are among the most expensive on the US stock market, trading at more than $40,000 each.

Such is his influence that his current $2 billion move into US Treasury bills rattled investors, who saw it as a precautionary manoeuvre ahead of a fall on the high-flying stock market. His reputation is built on the success of value investment Buffett-style, which means looking for companies offering real value that have been overlooked by general buying trends in the market, to look for high earnings and to take a long-term view on shareholdings.

The Sage of Omaha's foresight was shown this week by the $1.4 billion profit he turned on his stake in Salomon, the US investment bank.

His demonstrably successful approach stands out against the short-termism often *seen among speculators* and the *proverbial City trader* solely focused on securing the next bonus package.

Mr Buffett is unconcerned by sudden changes in the stock *market*. "Investors *should* love volatility. You like huge swings in the market because that means more stocks will be mispriced. It opens up opportunities," he told his company's annual *meeting this year*.

Mr Soros, is another figure awarded guru status among investors. In 1992 he hit the headlines when his betting against sterling saw the pound knocked out of the European exchange-rate mechanism and netted him around £1 billion.

Now he is involved in a row with the Prime Minister of Malaysia over the activities of currency speculators in the unstable Asian currency markets. He also made news speaking at the International Monetary Conference this week, when he gave warning of an end to the current boom on global stock markets.

Mr Soros's brand of investment science bases decisions on the bigger picture — not on individual stocks but on currency changes and market fluctuations.

He is associated with spotting opportunities at the bottom and top of the market or currency cycles. He says: "I am particularly keen on investment theses that the market is reluctant to accept. These are usually the strongest. Remember the saying 'The market climbs on a wall of worry'."

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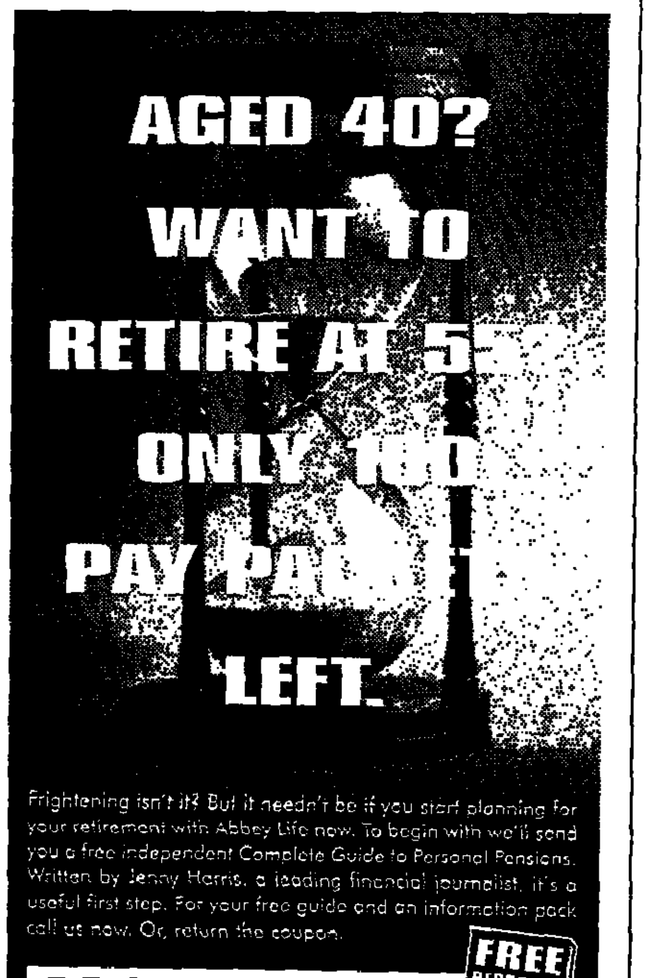

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Cover for childhood accidents

Most parents would do anything to protect their children. Yet 2.5 million children in Britain are treated in hospital for accidental injury each year. Of these, 10,000 suffer a permanent disability. Now Cigna, the insurance company, is offering accidental injury insurance for children.

The insurer does not claim that its policy, Firstcover, will even begin to compensate for a serious injury, nor will it pay for private medical treatment. But it says that a cash payment can help a family to cope with the stress and extra costs which can occur once medical treatment is finished. The parents may have to take unpaid leave from work, pay for childcare while they make hospital visits or even make modifications to their home to cater for the injured child.

Firstcover costs £2.75 a month for one child, or £5 a month for all the children in the family, which is hardly going to break the bank. But it is still worth considering exactly what cover policyholders get for their money. The policy pays £40 for each day that the insured child spends in hospital.

HIT OR MISS

up to a maximum of 365 days. It also pays out single sums of cash for permanent disabilities of varying severity. For example, £2,000 for facial disfigurement (where the scars affect at least 20 per cent of the face), £10,000 for loss of a finger or big toe and £25,000 for a thumb. Blindness in one eye, total loss of hearing in both ears or a leg below the knee will result in a payout of £50,000.

The maximum payout of £100,000 is for loss of (or loss of the use of) a leg above the knee, a hand or arm, total blindness in both eyes, total organic paralysis and total loss of intellectual capacity.

These benefits seem competitive compared to similar products on the market. However, it excludes dental damage — an injury that is relatively common and likely to incur costs for the parents.

Chris Latham, a chartered insurance practitioner with Byrne Williams, independent financial advisers, thinks Firstcover is a good buy. But he adds: "Adult accident policies often extend free cover to children. It is worth parents checking if their policies already cover their children."

Mohan Moorjani, a member of DBS, the independent financial advisory network, says that parents may find it more cost-effective to buy hospital cash cover for the whole family from a company such as HSA, rather than buying an individual policy for the children.

Score: ★★★
Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

JILL INSLEY

Playboy financier Bernie Cornfeld, who was dubbed "king of the fund of funds", liked to live the high life

Product offers double whammy of charges

As the small investors' watchdog prepares to tighten up on the sale of 'funds of funds', **Marianne Curphey** assesses their future

Time could be running out for controversial investment funds that often combine poor value with lousy performance.

Broker funds are effectively "funds of funds" run by independent financial advisers (IFAs) on behalf of their clients. The fund of funds concept was invented by Bernie Cornfeld, the financier, in the late Sixties. However, because they are a portfolio of funds or unit trusts, the individual investor pays two sets of management charges — one levied by the life company and the other by the IFA.

The Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for small investors, is expected to warn advisers at the end of next month that it intends to tighten up the way such funds are sold.

The funds are so controversial that some IFAs refuse to sell them, saying it is impossible to pretend to be impartial while recommending a product of their own. Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere Investments, said the double layer of management charges, which often amounts to 3 per cent per annum, is the real headache for investors. He said some funds had already gone out of business after the PIA's announcement earlier this year that it was reviewing existing regulations.

Mr Hooper said: "These funds would have to perform very well to beat other funds which do not have such high charges. Unfortunately broker funds not only have double fees, they also underperform. We made a decision not to have our own broker fund because we felt it would prevent us from being impartial in our advice if we recommended it."

Richard Cockroft, head of market practice and training and competence at the PIA, denied that the PIA intended to put any funds out of business.

"Not all funds have poor performance," he said. "What we want to do is raise the standards of those in the market." The board of the PIA is expected to issue a statement of policy on the issue by the end of October but this will not be legally binding. Any statutory regulations would have to be introduced separately, Mr Cockroft said.

However, Amanda Davidson, a partner with Holden Meehan, the IFA, was sceptical about the concept of broker funds providing good value. "We do not offer them. I believe the attraction for the advisers who do sell them is that they provide a regular income for the IFA involved."

Another problem with the funds is that they are not tax-efficient. Mr Hooper said: "Personal equity plans are much better for investors because they are free of income and capital gains tax."

Stephen Lansdown, joint managing director of the Bristol-based IFA Hargreaves Lansdown, does offer one offshore broker bond. He expressed "mixed feelings" about the concept. "Clients want advisers to manage their funds for them and switch into and out of sectors to gain the best returns. It makes sense for them to carry out transactions on a pooled basis and as long as the charges are transparent I do not see why they should be banned from the market altogether.

"If their performance is poor, clients should vote with their feet and go somewhere else. It is wrong for the PIA to act as judge and jury."

Investors who want to check whether their funds are offering a good or a bad deal can use a yardstick such as the FTSE 100 index or average of UK managed funds.

Chase de Vere has made a comparison of broker funds over a five-year period and has found that even the best performers trail managed life funds.

For example, for the five years to the end of August, this year, broker funds returned an average of £1,723 compared with an average return of £1,936.

According to HSW Hindsight, a company which provides statistical information on trusts and funds, the top broker fund, from Albany, returned £2,119 on an initial investment over five years, while the top managed life fund, Reliance, returned £2,632 over the same period. The figures are based on an initial investment of £1,000 with income reinvested.

The broker fund from Royal & SunAlliance Charles Stanley gave investors a return of £2,021 over the same period, compared with the Hambro Assured managed fund which returned £2,394.

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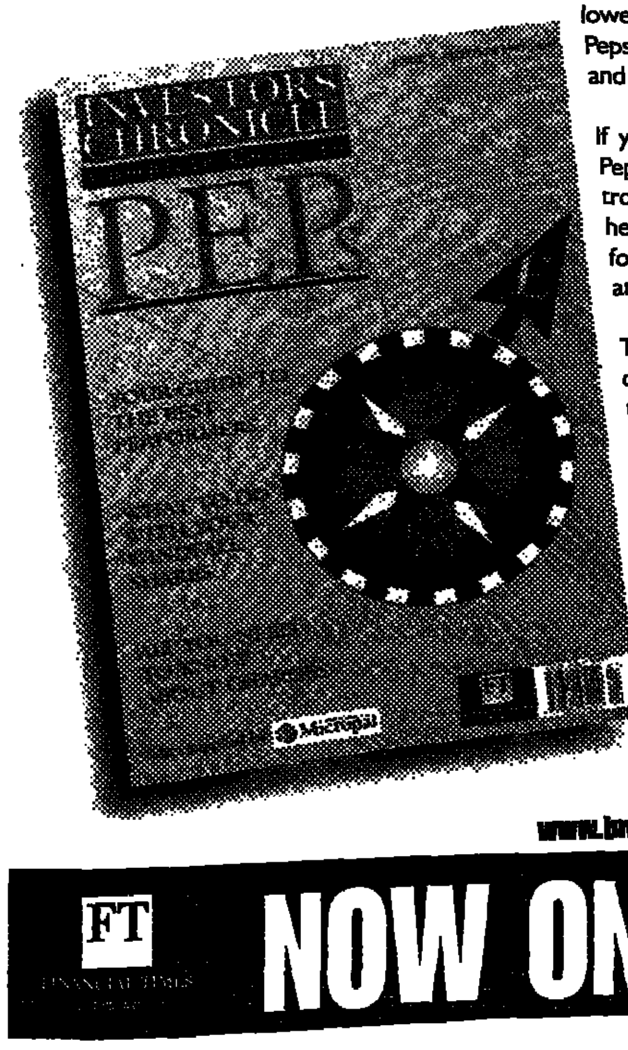

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Snowed under: a good set of clear records will mean you are less likely to be daunted by your tax return and more likely to avoid paying too much

John Givens highlights important issues for people starting up their own business

Taxing times for the self-employed

GO IT ALONE TAX

Becoming self-employed involves keeping many people happy, no one more so than the taxman. Most people who have made the leap from the relative comfort of being on someone else's payroll to being responsible for each penny of income will know there are many things to worry about on setting up a business, particularly in the early months.

But understanding your tax position and what the Inland Revenue expects of you before you start your new business should be made a priority. Not only will it make you more confident about being self-employed, but it will also free your mind and time to concentrate on other important issues.

Taking responsibility for your own taxation can be daunting and complicated, although with a little bit of time and effort it need not be.

The Inland Revenue has teamed up with the VAT Office and the National Insurance Contributions Agency to produce an easy to understand booklet called *Starting Your Own Business?* It outlines the basic rules relating to income tax, national insurance contributions and VAT, giving you all the information you need to know to get your business up and running, including forms to let the Revenue know that you are self-employed.

ALLOWANCES

Self-employed people are entitled to claim the same tax allowances as those who are employed and have their tax affairs looked after by their company. Everyone can earn up to £4,045 in a tax year — which runs from April 6 until April 5 the next year — without paying any income tax at all. In addition there is a married couple's allowance of £1,830 a year which can be claimed by the husband, wife or split between the two and gives tax relief at a rate of 15 per cent.

This means a married taxpayer claiming the allowance would have their tax bill reduced by a set amount of £274.50 a year, or £22.87 a month. After your personal allowance has been taken into account, the first £4,100 of taxable income is charged at the lower rate of 20p in the pound, which means as an unmarried person you can earn £8,145 a year before you start to pay tax at the standard rate, currently 23p in the pound.

All your earnings are taxed at the standard rate on income of between £4,101 and £26,100 a year. After this earnings attract tax at a higher rate, 40p in the pound. By adding in your personal allowance of £4,045 this effectively means you will only become a higher-rate taxpayer if you earn more than £30,145 in a tax year.

EXPENSES

Self-employed taxpayers can offset certain expenses against income tax, which means at the end of the tax year the amount of tax you owe the Inland Revenue will be calculated on your business profits rather than just earnings.

These costs are known as revenue expenditure and refer to the day-to-day running costs of your business.

The Inland Revenue states that to be allowable for tax purposes this expenditure must be incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of your business and as a rule of thumb if you can answer yes to the question "would I have this expense if I was not carrying on my business?" then the chances are you are not allowed to claim it against tax.

Obvious business expenses include office rental, heating, lighting and telephone bills, advertising expenses and travel costs and you can deduct the total of all these payments from your annual income before you calculate your tax bill.

Other expenses are not so straightforward, however. For example, the taxman will allow you to claim the cost of entertaining staff but not customers and normal domestic expenses like food and clothing are strictly off the menu for tax deductible allowances.

If you run your business from home rather than an office, you can claim a portion of household expenses such as rent, rates, council tax, telephone bills and heating and lighting against income tax, although you will need to satisfy the Inland Revenue that the percentage you claim is a reasonable reflection.

RECORDS

Everyone who is self-employed must keep records of all income and expenditure to show the taxman. If you don't you may end up paying more tax than you need to or, worse still, the Inland Revenue may launch a full-scale investigation into your business's tax affairs.

DEADLINES

Under the new self-assessment system you are obliged to fill in a tax return every year, showing details of income and expenditure.

After this you have two options. If you want the taxman to calculate your tax bill for you then you must make sure your completed tax forms are sent to the Inland Revenue by September 30 in the year following the end of the tax year on April 5.

If you want to calculate your tax liability by yourself, you have until January 31. If you are having problems with your form this weekend, ring the Institute of Chartered Accountants for free basic advice (0171-920 8683).

N.I.

When you become self-employed you will also be responsible for paying your own national insurance.

The self-employed pay two types of national insurance: Class 2 and Class 4. Class 2 payments are the basic flat-rate contributions, currently £6.15 a week. Class 4 contributions are based on profits between £7,010 and £24,170 a year and charged at a flat rate of 6 per cent.

Class 2 payments can be paid every quarter or by direct debit from your bank account every month, while Class 4 contributions are calculated at the end of the tax year when your business profits are known. How much national insurance you pay will affect your right to claim state allowances in the future.

VAT

You need to register for VAT only if your annual turnover is more than £48,000. If you are VAT registered you will need to add value added tax — currently 17.5 percent — on to all the invoices you issue to people who have bought from you, unless your business deals in one of the areas exempt from VAT, like food or books.

The VAT office will ask for a VAT return every three months and you must pay promptly the amount of VAT you have added to your invoices during the quarter. If you have bought supplies where you have been charged VAT, you can claim this back by offsetting the amount against your tax bill or asking the VAT office for a cheque if you have paid out more VAT than you have charged customers.

Call in the professionals

Emma Bagnall knew exactly how she would cope with her potential tax minefield when she became self-employed at the beginning of April — she called in an accountant.

The 32-year-old graphic artist decided to turn freelance after she was made redundant by a tabloid national newspaper after just four months. She was concerned that during the 1996-97 tax year she had worked as an employee, earned other freelance income and spent a period of time not earning at all when she was studying in Florence.

Rather than face the trauma of explaining this to the taxman, she decided to leave it to the professionals.

After handing over expense receipts and details of her income, Emma, of Stoke Newington, London, let her accountant get on with things. She said: "I don't understand all the ins and outs of how to calculate my tax, although I have a fairly good idea.

"However, my situation was slightly complicated, so I thought I would get an accountant to do my tax return for me. It saved a lot of trouble and effort and made sure I got what I am entitled to and pay the right amount of tax."

Emma, who is currently on assignment at *Cover*, the newly launched general interest magazine, paid £240 for the service and is now expecting a tax refund, although her accountant has told her this is likely to be in the region of £80 and not the £2,000 she had hoped for. Also, like a lot of self-employed people, Emma needs to reassess her pension arrangements now she is going it alone.

Although she took out a personal pension with Friends Provident when she was 25, paying net contributions of £100 a month, this was frozen when she joined the occupational scheme of a former employer and she has yet to restart her contributions.

She is also looking at the need to insure herself against being unable to work because of illness or accident, with permanent health insurance and critical illness cover being considered to provide an income if the worst came to the worst.

JOHN GIVENS

SIMON WALKER

Bagnall: tax calculations proved complicated

The Chancellor has announced that there will be changes to the tax regime of PEPs with effect from 06.04.99. Until this date, PEPs will retain their tax free status. After this date, it may no longer be possible to continue your investment into a PEP. Full details of the Individual Savings Account (ISA) including details for transferring into ISAs have yet to be clarified. You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up; you may not get back as much as you invest. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. *Source: Micropal UK Fixed Interest sector. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority). Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited, (regulated by The Personal Investment Authority) - registered address: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB.

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Get better value when you buy your annuity

Marianne Curphey looks at the options for people who are approaching retirement and are ready to draw their pensions

Choosing the right pension is difficult enough, but once you are close to retirement another difficult financial decision awaits: how and when do you choose an annuity?

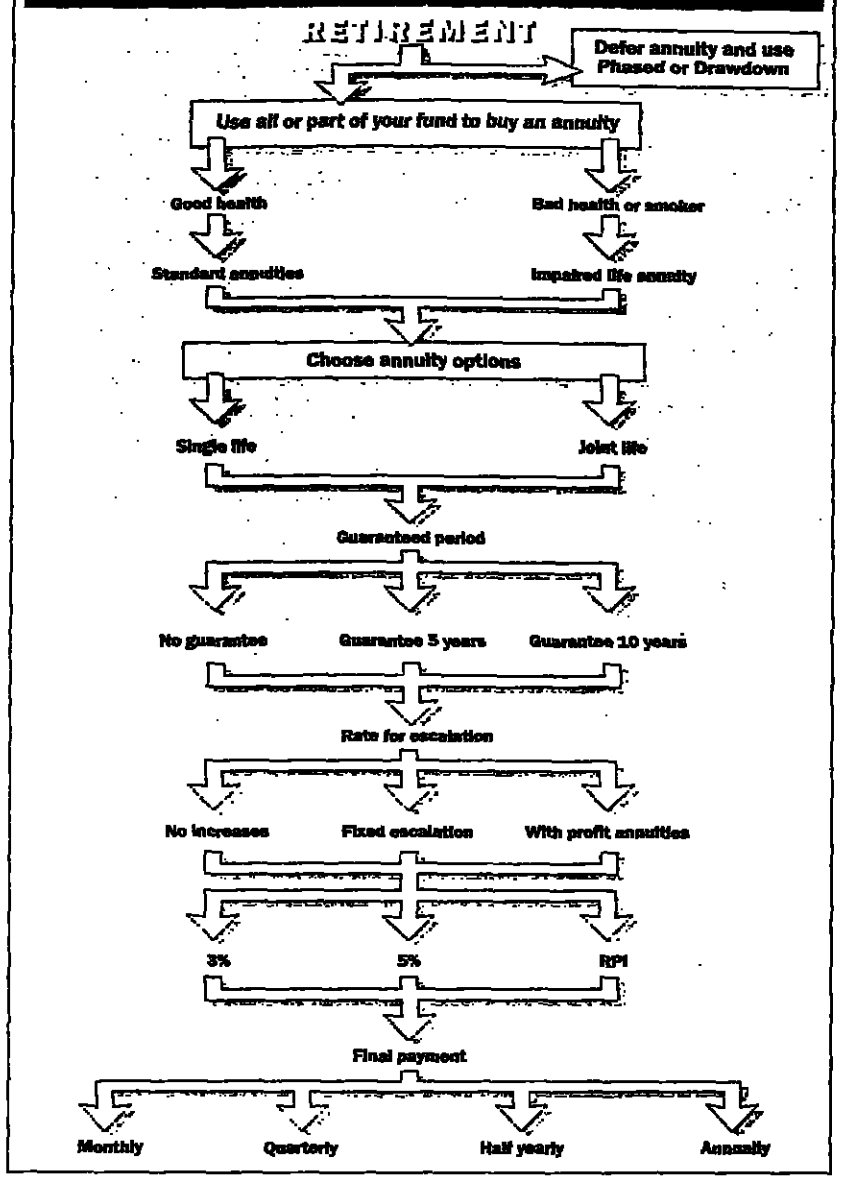
An annuity is a contract for an insurer to supply a regular stream of income from the retirement fund you have built up over your working lifetime. Most annuities have an "open market option", which allows you to buy a pension annuity from any company you choose.

However, many insurance companies offer poor-value pension annuities. They get away with it because prospective pensioners are unaware that they can shop around for the best deal. Annuity Direct, an independent adviser based in London, calculates that annuities provided by top companies pay up to 40 per cent more income than those from the worst companies, although the difference is often around 15 per cent.

If you have a final salary scheme with your employer, you do not need to worry about an annuity because the scheme will pay you lifelong monthly benefits. However, if your pension is run as a money purchase scheme, in which your contributions and those of your employer have built up an individual fund, you need to buy an annuity. This also applies to personal pensions and to plans into which you paid additional voluntary contributions.

Money purchase schemes are becoming increasingly popular, and below we look at the options available if you are in one of these schemes and need to shop around for a pension annuity.

RETIREMENT DILEMMA: HOW TO CHOOSE AN ANNUITY



Q ***How does an annuity work and how much tax-free cash can I take?***

A An annuity is a contract with the insurance company which pays you a regular income until you die in return for the pot of money you have handed over. The older you are when you buy your annuity, the higher the level of income paid by the annuity.

The insurance company is effectively betting that you will die before your fund is exhausted. Your income comes from a mixture of investment returns on the fund and capital from the fund itself. If you die before the capital is exhausted, the insurance company gets to keep the remainder.

With a personal pension the tax-free cash you are allowed to take is 25 per cent of the accumulated fund. For self-employed pensions before July 1988, the tax-free cash will depend on your age.

The income you receive from the remainder of the fund once you have taken your tax-free cash is taxed in the same way as earned income, so you pay tax at your highest rate.

Q **Is an annuity the only option for the fund I have built up?**

A No, you can opt to buy an income drawdown plan which lets you take cash from your plan every year, or you can go for a phased retirement plan.

Pension drawdown allows you to delay buying an annuity up to the age of 75. You can withdraw up to 10 per cent of the value of your fund every year. If you die, the capital returns to your estate. Any tax-free cash which is to be taken must be paid out at the start. This option gives you flexibility over the amount of income you draw. The risk is that while you are delaying the purchase of your annuity, the stock market may fall. This would affect the value of the funds you were holding in your pension pot. You have to buy an annuity at age 75.

Phased retirement allows you to buy a number of smaller annuities at different times. This is useful to people who want to retire from work gradually. Each year you take a proportion of tax-free cash and a proportion of your annuity. This method is tax-efficient and your beneficiaries will receive any money left over.

The drawback is that you are leaving the bulk of your savings in equity-based investments, and although they may return 20 per cent or more in a good year, there may also be years when the stock market falls.

Q **Does the income paid rise in line with inflation?**

A Only if you request it. If you choose an index-linked annuity, payments in the early years of the contract's life will be lower. You need to be in good health to benefit from the higher payments which will be paid in the years to come. There is no point in forgoing benefits in the early years if your health is bad.

William Burrows, of Annuity Direct, says these annuities are useful for people who are worried about the effects of inflation. "Whether you choose this option depends very much on your personal circumstances," he says. "If both a husband and a wife buy an annuity at age 65, at least one of them is likely to be alive in 20 years' time, when a sum that seems large now will have been eroded by inflation."

As an example, an escalating annuity which increases payments by 5 per cent per annum, or which is linked to the retail price index (RPI), is likely to reduce your initial income by one third. It takes about ten years for payments from an escalating annuity to catch up with those from a level annuity.

Q **What can I do if my health is poor and how do I shop around?**

A Impaired life annuities are available for people who have a medical condition or who smoke. The initial payments are much higher for people with a heart condition, diabetes and high blood pressure. Such annuities are provided by the Pensions Annuity Friendly Society and Sun Life.

The best annuity rates are quoted in Weekend Money. You can buy direct or use an annuity broker such as the Annuity Bureau, Annuity Direct and William Burrows's new advisory service. Mr Burrows recommends Prudential, Canada Life, Equitable Life, Sun Life of Canada and Norwich Union.

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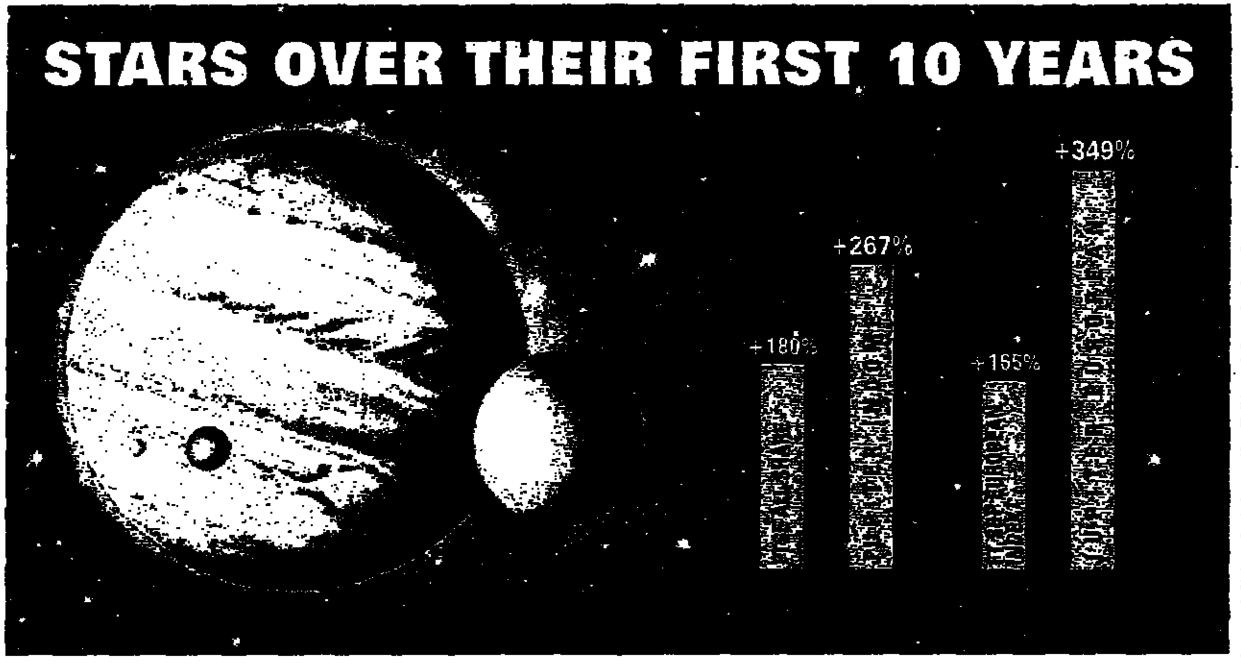

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*Bar chart: *Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.9.87–1.9.97. Source: Micropal †Excluding UK.*
Five year performance to 1.9.97: Jupiter Income +251% (1st out of 79 sector funds); FTSE All Share +145%;
Jupiter European + 246% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTS&P European Index Ex UK +155%;
offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal.

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.
Please send me further information on: The Jupiter Income/European Funds ☐ The Jupiter PEP ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐
Print Name (Mr/Mrs/ Ms) ________ Address ________
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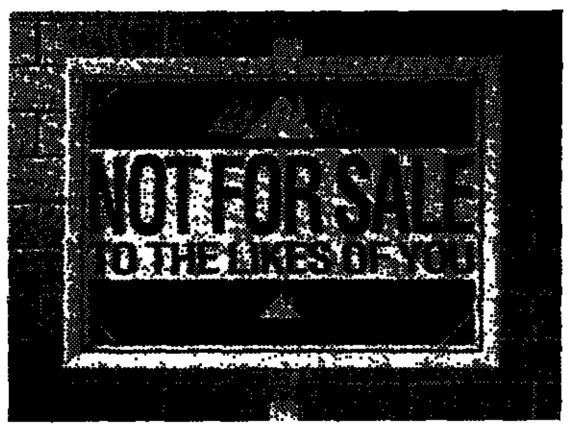

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Surf the Net with help of Which?

If you are hesitant about surfing the Net, the latest publication from Which? Ltd could help. *The Which? Guide to the Internet*, priced £9.99, unravels the Net's complexities by explaining what it can do and what the jargon really means. As well as describing how you can perform basic tasks, the guidebook outlines how to choose between the numerous services and software packages available. Which? says that the book will also help users to understand Net etiquette — how to be courteous to other travellers on the information superhighway. More advanced uses of the Net are explored, for example the ways in which businesses can benefit. Included with the book is a 30-day trial for *Which? Online*, providing independent consumer information on CD-Rom. The cost of the book will be refunded if the Online service is subscribed to. Call Which? Ltd on 0800 252100.

☐ *Coventry Building Society* has raised its savings rates for the second time this month. Rate increases will apply on its two postal accounts, with effect from Monday. For customers with an investment of more than £5,000 in a Postal 50 Account, the rate is now 7.35 per cent, a rise of 0.10 per cent. For those investing more than £40,000, a rate of 7.60 per cent gross per annum will be paid. Minimum investment is £5,000 and 50 days' notice is required for withdrawals. First Instant Postal Account annual rates have been increased from 7.00 to 7.10 per cent gross per annum. No withdrawal restrictions apply. Call 0345 665522.

☐ *Yorkshire Bank* has also improved its rates on four savings accounts with immediate effect. The new gross rates on the Premium Plus account are as follows: below £5,000 — 3 per cent (no change), £5,000 to £9,999 — 5.30 per cent (0.30 per cent increase), £10,000 to £24,999 — 6.25 per cent (up 0.40 per cent), £25,000 to £49,999 — 6.40 per cent (up 0.45 per cent), £50,000 to £1 million — 6.60 per cent (up 0.40 per cent). Other customers affected by the rate rises are Three Month Premium and Instant Access/Cashmaster account holders. Rates on the Yorkshire Bank Tessa have risen 0.25 per cent at each investment tier.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.50	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Instant b	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	First Instant	Postal	£5,000	7.10	Yly
Alliance & Leicester 0845 6088860	First C/s Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Albion 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.15	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST—tel 40	40 day p	£5,000	7.30	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£5,000	7.35	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	£10,000	7.60	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811		5 year	£500	7.60	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.60	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829400	Base rt lnkd M/V	1.00%C	12.70%	Nil

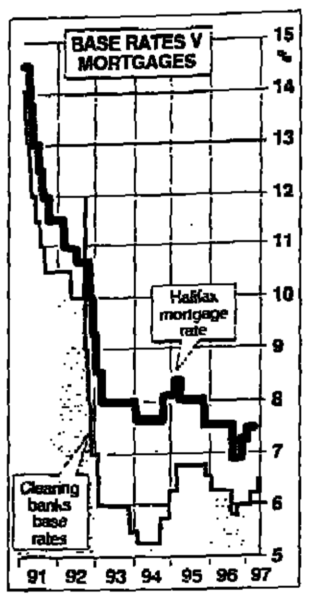
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

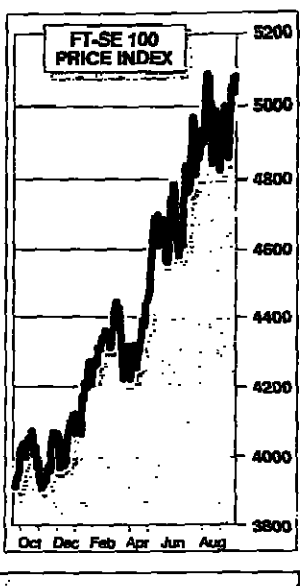
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.65
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[6]	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**[7]	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*[6]	6.50	5.20	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†[2,3]	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond[3,6]	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†[3]	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3[6]	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000[5]	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3] Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0.2% net bonus for £20,000– [5] £100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings [6] Taxable but cred in full [7] £500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,224	£10,316	£11,732
Canada Life..........Level	£ 9,177	£10,270	£11,757
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,135	£10,257	£11,772
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 9,137	£10,195	£11,635

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,643	£ 9,457	£10,649
Generali ....Level	£8,443	£ 9,370	£10,644
Canada Life ....Level	£8,470	£ 9,293	£10,491
Equitable Life ....Level	£8,595	£ 9,291	£10,260
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,491	£ 9,226	£10,315

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£8,246	£8,862	£ 9,742
Equitable Life ....Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547
Canada Life ....Level	£8,033	£8,667	£ 9,559
Generali ....Level	£7,965	£8,620	£ 9,517
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,075	£8,619	£ 9,404

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 585 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 25, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5,000	AIG Life	6.27
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.61
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.55

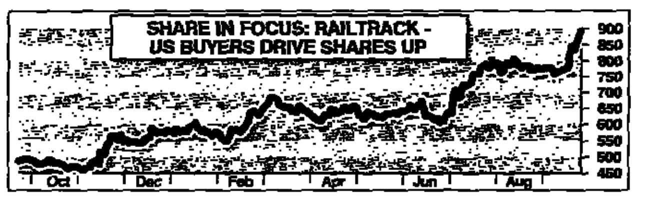
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	125.45	7.432	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	152.55	7.620	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	170.51	7.624	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	170.73	7.614	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	159.99	7.511	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	151.82	7.740	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	176.09	7.596	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	140.26	7.615	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	165.61	7.623	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	164.75	7.663	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	169.54	7.594	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	120.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.98359%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.14	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.1.00
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths 3% disc-6 mths
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	0.99	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, 0.5%oversvr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	584.40	618.50	+ 3.20	...
UK Equity	801.30	848.00	+ 7.60	...
Property	447.00	473.10	+ 0.90	...
Fixed Interest	375.20	397.10	+ 0.70	...
Money	278.40	294.70	+ 0.30	...
International	460.10	508.10	- 2.80	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	218.10	229.60	+ 2.40	..
Ethical S4	174.90	184.20	+ 1.40	..
International S4	240.10	252.80	+ 0.80	.
Protected Gth S4	130.60	137.50	- 0.10	.
Asian Pacific	207.00	217.90	- 1.80	...
European S4	274.10	288.60	+ 5.00	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	437.40	460.50	- 3.50	...
Equity Ser 4	313.50	330.10	+ 3.10	..
Man Ser 4	883.30	929.80	+ 7.80	..
Conv Ser 4	365.70	385.00	+ 0.40	..
Money Ser 4	365.30	384.60	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	435.10	458.00	+ 3.50	..
American Ser 4	846.90	891.40	-11.40	...
High Inc Ser 4	970.40	1021.50	+ 9.10	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	247.50	260.60	- 2.30	...
Japan Ser 4	287.50	302.70	+ 3.40	.
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2239.00	2356.80	+36.10	...
European Fd Acc	582.90	613.50	+ 7.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	619.00	651.50	+ 5.70	..
Gtd Money Acc	372.00	391.50	+ 0.30	..
Intl Managed Acc	856.80	901.80	+13.70	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	382.90	403.00	- 2.10	..
Japan Fund	251.90	265.10	+ 6.90	.
N American Acc	506.60	533.20	- 5.20	.
Prop Fd Acc	505.60	532.10	+ 0.50	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1373.70	1446.00	+13.90	.

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	305.10	322.70	+ 2.10	...
Euro Opportunity	329.00	348.00	+ 1.30	...
North Amer Opp	302.80	320.40	- 1.40	...
Far East Opp	213.40	225.80	- 3.50	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	184.60	194.40	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.40	229.00	- 0.10	...
Fixed Int	252.20	266.80	+ 0.90	..
Cash	176.60	186.80	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	317.40	335.80	- 0.90	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	487.80	513.50	+ 1.20	...
UK Equity	922.90	971.50	+15.50	...
Property	298.70	314.50	- 0.10	...
Money Market	279.80	294.50	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	366.40	385.70	+ 1.30	...
Japan	308.20	324.50	+ 1.50	.
North America	269.50	283.70	- 1.20	...
International	490.40	516.30	- 0.80	...
European	420.70	442.90	+ 1.70	..
Far East	158.00	166.40	- 2.60	..
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	444.60	468.10	- 1.60	
Property	286.90	302.10	+ 0.50	..
Gilt & Fxd Int	291.50	306.90	+ 0.60	...
Equity	563.80	593.00	+ 3.50	...
Cash	238.80	251.40	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	532.00	560.10	+ 5.90	...
CLife Intl Fd	403.20	424.50	- 1.00	.
Managed Fund	949.40	999.40	+ 3.40	.
Property Fund	581.40	612.00	- 0.40	..
Equity Fund	1366.00	1438.50	+ 8.40	...
Gilt Edged Fd	752.10	791.70	+ 1.60	
Deposit Fund	368.90	388.30	+ 0.30	..
Investment Fd	609.60	640.10	+ 4.00	..
International	641.70	675.50	- 1.70	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	189.30	199.30		...
Managed Fund	880.80	927.20	+11.20	
Equity Fund	541.90	569.90	+ 6.00	.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Finer points of a borderline case of mis-selling

From Mr P. E. Perham

Sir, Am I alone in having difficulty in assessing the correct methods of deciding if a case exists for pension mis-selling compensation? Five years ago I transferred to a *personal pension following* redundancy. The projected benefits for the personal pension gave figures far in excess of the frozen final-salary scheme of my previous employer due to growth rates and annuity rates being laid down by Lautro at that time. Several things *have occurred since* that make me think I might be *worse off.*

Pension projections five years ago were based on annual growth rates of 8.5 per cent and 13 per cent. More recently, however, due to reduced inflation, these have *been reduced to 6 per cent and* 12 per cent, and projections *use a reduced annuity rate.*

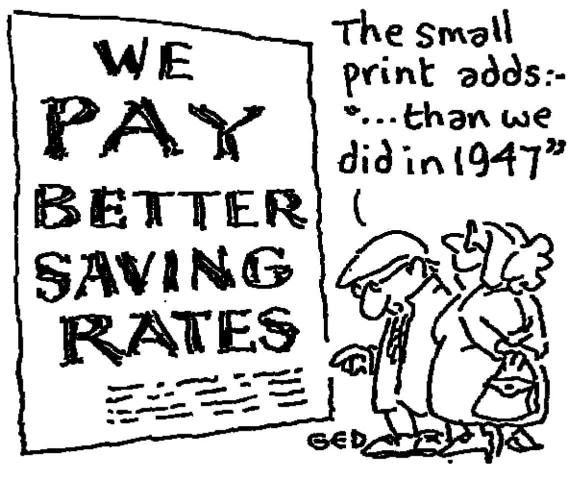
I have achieved a 9 per cent growth rate on my pension and am aware that I need a 12 per cent rate to meet the final-salary scheme of my previous employer. Assuming an optimistic 3 per cent terminal bonus, I would be a borderline case. We now learn tax concessions *are to be removed,* which will probably mean a failure to *meet the 9 per cent in the future* (ie, certainly worse off).

If future inflation, growth rates, annuity rates and terminal bonuses plus varying tax rates are so flexible and unknown, can someone tell me on what basis pension holders should assess if they are a case for compensation? Is *the real* reason that pension providers *are dragging their heels over* compensation due to the fact that it is an impossible task?

As an aside perhaps someone can also tell me how Westminster can justifiably put pressure on companies to *compensate when much of the* situation is due to government *encouragement in the first* place and possibly *upon the latest Gordon Brown "raid".*

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP PERHAM,
18 The Causeway,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

Nationwide rates itself


WE PAY BETTER SAVING RATES
The small print adds:- "...than we did in 1947"
GED

From Mr & Mrs T. C. Fisher
Sir, My wife and I have been investors with the Nationwide *for a number of* years as well as recently having our mortgage with them.

We noticed in your article (Carpetbaggers pause to regroup, September 6) that a spokesman *for Nationwide* said that "we pay better saving rates". This simply is not the case. Recent press adverts show that the Nationwide rates lag up to nearly 1 per cent under competitors. Our comment to the Nationwide is that investors are paying dearly for the slightly lower mortgage rate. As we retired early last year this loss of income is important to us and we feel Nationwide is at serious fault with its investment rates policy.

Yours faithfully,
T.C. & A.L. FISHER,
"Kellaton",
Devons Road,
Cary Park,
Babbacombe,
Torquay, Devon.

Pensioners deserve to keep their Pep benefits

From Dr R. Law
Sir, I believe that personal equity plans (Peps) should continue unaltered for the present generation of State old age pensioners, and offering *the current tax reliefs. This* benefit would thus gradually *wither on the vine with this* special generation of pensioners, many of whom fought for our country's freedom in military service for over five years, often far from home.

A change in rules would cause difficulties for many pensioners who rely on the dividends to eke out their pensions, and planned matters that way. They have *already lost the tax relief* on any private health insurance.

Any changes will also lead to the finance industry making additional charges.

Yours faithfully,
RON LAW,
1 Beechworth Close, NW3.

Abbey habit is spreading

From Mr S. W. McLintock
Sir, Karen Zagor's article (An expensive new Abbey habit?, September 6) claims that Abbey National account charges are, so far, limited to holders of the Instant Plus Account. "Abbey has promised not to bring in similar charges for the 1.6 million customers of its *main account."*

I have a bank account with Abbey National and the statement dated July 31, 1997, was endorsed with a notice that, from September 3, a £1 charge would be levied on mini-statements requested at a bank counter. It does, therefore, *appear that, at least as* far as mini-statements are concerned, charges are already being levied on current account holders by Abbey.

Yours faithfully,
S. McLINTOCK,
24 Briarfield Avenue,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire.

■ **Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.**

Savers unaware of the self-assessment trap

From Mr B. Hypher

Sir, The discussion on self-assessment deadlines and difficulties has so far focused exclusively on those who have been sent forms, defined usually as self-employed and high earners.

I have read nothing about another category who are probably blissfully ignorant that they have also been *caught up in self-assessment.* This is the people with untaxed *interest* derived from National Savings products which pay interest gross, notably pensioners' bonds.

There must be large numbers of elderly *people who are* obliged to declare this interest but who do not realise that this means notifying the Inland Revenue, obtaining a *self-assessment* form and completing it to the same *deadlines as everyone else in* order to avoid the penalties.

I do my *97-year-old* mother's tax return and am well able to cope on her behalf. A *phone call to her tax office in* Cardiff (which deals with many pensioners) established that I now had to keep bang up to date and, yes, they have *a self-assessment section.*

In fact, contrary to many *articles,* I found the form well laid out and easier to complete than the old form — it took less than 30 minutes.

It would be interesting to *explore Revenue policy on* pensioners' untaxed interest, *the lack of publicity* on self-assessment for pensioners and whether the taxman will exact the standard penalties.

In the past one could let the *untaxed interest matter ride* for a few years and then catch up in one go. Now it seems one cannot.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD HYPHER,
40 Twemlow Avenue,
Parkstone,
Poole,
Dorset.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

BRADFORD & BINGLEY, Britain's second-largest *building society is raising* its variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent with effect from Monday. The move is a delayed response to the July and August base rate rises. The society has *pledged not to raise its rate* again until the end of January, even if base rates go up again before then. Borrowers of more than two years' standing will continue to pay a reduced rate of 7.75 *per cent. The average* variable rate amongst larger lenders is 8.45 per cent.

☐ Revised GDP figures have revealed that the economy is growing at its fastest *rate since 1989, heightening* speculation that the Bank of England will raise interest rates again in November. Second-quarter GDP increased by an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, compared with *a previously published* estimate of 3.4 per cent. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, *said* at the International Monetary Fund meeting on Tuesday that he is "optimistic" about the outlook for the economy *despite the "threat"* posed to inflation by strong consumer spending.

☐ Women pensioners are on average £780 a year worse off than their male *counterparts,* according to a survey by the TUC. Single female pensioners are *likely* to be the poorest of all. John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said that women historically have missed out *on pensions partly* because of patterns of employment as well as *discrimination* in occupational schemes. The TUC survey showed that only one woman in four is a member of an occupational *pension scheme and more* than three million people do not *receive the full state* pension.

☐ Britannia Building Society insisted that neither life *insurance policyholders nor* savers and borrowers *would lose out as a result of* a £14 million provision for losses at its subsidiary, Britannia Life. The society began a review into profit forecasts for the life company earlier this year. The *society said that bonuses on* life policies which had already been declared would be unaffected by the provision. Britannia also predicted that it was likely to match at the end of this year *the £37 million* paid out to members under its loyalty bonus scheme in 1996.

DIRECT LINE RATES

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£5,000 – £9,999	5.90%
£10,000 – £24,999	6.65%
£25,000 – £49,999	6.75%
£50,000 – £99,999	6.90%
£100,000+	7.00%
MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	7.59%
APR	7.8%

All rates correct at 8th September 1997.

DIRECT LINE FINANCIAL SERVICES

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0181 667 1121 SAVINGS

www.directline.co.uk
A Royal Bank of Scotland company

Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. TTBB24

Mortgages and savings provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. [illegible]

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International Growth	25.1.83	+682.4	3 out of 17	+101.5	AA
Emerging Companies	8.4.85	+763.7	1 out of 27	+139.5	AA
American Growth	21.4.84	+1335.3	1 out of 12	+144.3	AA
Far Eastern Growth	8.11.86	+409.9	1 out of 13	+130.3	AAA
Japanese Growth	30.11.91	+9.0	14 out of 73	+15.4	–
European Growth	8.11.86	+255.6	3 out of 5	+112.9	–
UK Growth	24.10.87	+400.4	1 out of 24	+144.7	AAA
Asian Smaller Markets	8.3.93	+87.6	12 out of 79	–	AA
Latin American Growth	31.1.95	+56.1	11 out of 25	–	–

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Lizanne Rose shows how precautions plus insurance keep theft and fraud at bay

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Making life more secure

STUDENT FINANCE

Going to college or university for the first time should be an adventure — but not for the wrong reasons. Thieves often target student homes because they know freshers are more interested in having fun than bothering about house security.

Students do need insurance for the contents of their homes and rooms and often underestimate the cost of replacing belongings stolen or damaged. You may be covered under your parents' policy at their home: Nationwide and Royal & Sun-Alliance offer cover to students if their parents are insured with them.

Some policies can be extended for a fixed sum: Eagle Star will charge £25 for a student to be added to the Homestar policy (although you will only be insured for £500-worth of possessions).

Always lock your room or house because evidence of a forced entry into your lodgings is normally required to make an insurance claim.

If you cannot be added to your parents' policy, you will pay more for living in an area classified as "high risk", such as parts of Manchester, Teesside, Newcastle and Liverpool.

If you are living in a shared house or flat in one of these areas, you can expect to pay £76 for £2,000 basic contents cover with Campus Insurance. With Endsleigh, it is £84. If your flat is in a "low risk" area, such as Plymouth, Swansea or Reading, the premium is £34 with Campus, £37 with Endsleigh. The hall of residence premium for all areas is £24 with both Campus and Endsleigh. Medical Insurance Agency (MIA Group) charges £22.

You need to confirm whether your computer equipment is covered. Campus Insurance includes £500-worth of computer cover with its basic policy. Students must buy Endsleigh's basic policy before qualifying for computer cover. Computers can be covered on their own through Royal & Sun Alliance. You will normally have to pay the first £25 of any claim.

■ **PLASTIC CARD FRAUD:** Under-25s are particularly at risk from plastic-card crime, mainly because of carelessness, according to Card Watch, the banking industry's card fraud prevention campaign. According to its research, 14 per cent of people allow someone else to borrow their card; 15 per cent rarely or never destroy their card when it expires; and 24 per cent put their wallets or purses on a bar or table in the pub.

Report lost or stolen cards to your bank or building society immediately.

■ **TELEPHONE BILLS:** Nothing is more likely to cause friction in a shared house than working out the telephone bill. Ask BT for a fully itemised bill to keep track. A BT Chargecard enables you to phone from call boxes without needing cash. Calls will be charged to your parents' phone bill.

Many students now have mobile phones. Be careful to keep a close watch on your phone, as it is an easy item to steal. Use the mobile phone lock, if yours has one — a PIN number has to be entered before the phone can be used. Mercury One 2 One has launched its Up 2 You pay-as-you-go digital mobile phone service. This has no minimum-term contract, no monthly service charge or monthly bills. Airtime is purchased in advance using a voucher system. However, it will cost you £199.99 RRP for the Up 2 You Pack with handset and calls are charged at a very steep 50p per minute.

■ **TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT:** Transport costs can be high, especially if you live in London where a single journey on the Tube is £1.20. Student rail and coach cards are well worth buying. A four-year Young Person's Railcard is being offered free by Midland Bank when you open an account there.

Visa has just launched TravelMoney, a new cash-machine card you preload with your holiday money. You can then withdraw it from any of Visa's 341,000 cash machines in 112 countries without having to convert currency in each country you visit. Call 01733 318900.

■ **PARENTS:** In spite of a maximum parental grant of £2,160 per year, students can leave further education owing around £5,000 in student loans.

A guide is available to help parents to plan ahead for their child's education and further education. It offers advice on how to fund education — nursery, private school, and university — and has tips on money management, paying less tax on investments and teaching children to handle money. Available free from Sun Life. Call 0117 989 9030 Mon-Fri.

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†Source: Micropal. Based on £100 per month from 14.2.86 to 1.7.97. Offer to Bid prices. With gross income re-invested. Over the 5 years to 1.7.97 the same investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 19.5%. The figures shown illustrate what the return would have been if the Trust had been eligible for inclusion in a PEP at its launch in February 1986. The value of stockmarket investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Exchange rate change may cause the value of any overseas investments to go up or down. Where applicable we will recover any overseas taxes wherever possible and practical. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. The value to an investor of any tax advantages depends on personal circumstances. *For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored.

[illegible] من الاهرام

هكذا من الاصل

Classic way to save cash is to buy an ageing car

Merryn Myatt on the best options for students who want to go out without going broke

Nicola Baker discovered that the insurance arm of the NUS offered her a good deal

STUDENT FINANCE

Learning how to budget is now as much a part of student life as expanding your knowledge of your chosen discipline. *But you* can cut your transport costs and cut a dash around campus in a car. The cheapest option and the one with the highest cool quotient is to buy a car made and registered before 1971. The trade calls them classics, others would call them bangers. Either way, they are exempt from road tax, so there's a £145-a-year saving to start with.

For £1,500 you should be able to get a model in reasonable condition, MoT'd and structurally sound.

Remember, old cars were made before built-in obsolescence became an article of faith with manufacturers. Why else do you see so many old Beetles and Morris Minors around?

The best place to start your search is a classic car show, which will not only give you some idea of the best models and prices, but will also put you in touch with a cheap source of replacement parts for later.

Once you know which cars interest you, it's well worth *investing £12 to £20 joining* the relevant enthusiasts' club. The cost of the membership will be more than repaid by the knowledge of other members and their delight in sharing it.

Reputable dealers will always have an old banger or two taken in part exchange. Offer *him half the asking price. The* dealer probably can't be bothered to shift it anywhere else.

Buying from the small ads in the back of classic car magazines is only for the knowledgeable. Although it is an offence for advertisers not to point out a car's faults, enforcing your *rights may be difficult.*

There is little point in buying a cheap car if you cannot afford *to insure it. Premiums for 17* and 18-year-olds — assuming you can find a company that *will even give you a quote* — can reach four figures, often making the insurance ludicrously more than the value of the ageing wreck that it is supposed to be protecting.

Endsleigh, the insurance arm of the NUS, claims to be able to give 80 per cent of students a better deal than they could find anywhere else.

Nicola Baker, an 18-year-old from South Wales, will shortly be heading to Newcastle University to study for a degree in mathematics and accountancy. She approached eight insurance companies with her 13-year-old Ford Fiesta, valued at £750. Three refused to quote for comprehensive insurance for under-21s and four refused for third party, fire and theft.

Endsleigh quoted Nicola £482.17 for comprehensive cover and £264.25 for third party, *fire and theft — both £100 less* than the next best.

If your car is a "classic", you may be able to improve on Endsleigh's quotes by arranging your insurance through one of the hundreds of specialist classic car insurance companies that advertise heavily in the back of classic car magazines. They achieve their discounts, however, by catering for genuine enthusiasts who garage their cars and drive a limited mileage. They are not especially overjoyed by teenaged student motorists, but they will look more benevolently on your case if you are a member of the relevant enthusiasts' club, which, incidentally, can often arrange still further insurance discounts.

With thorough *shopping* around, you should be able to pick up comprehensive insurance on a 25-year-old car, with limited mileage, worth about £1,500, for £200 to £350.

With fuel consumption — certainly on the smaller engined cars — everything you *could* hope *for,* and parts available ludicrously cheaply through clubs, magazines or a *breaker's yard, your main fi*nancial problem will be depreciation.

Well, not quite. The Austin A30 cost £507 when launched in 1951, and the Ford Capri was *£890 7s 10d in 1969, so you* never know, you might even make some money when you *come to sell at the end of your* course.

NEO-CLASSIC BARGAINS ON A BUDGET

Make and Model	Years	Condition Good	Poor
Austin A55 MkII Cambridge	59-61	£1,000	£250
Austin 1300 GT Saloon	67-74	£900	£200
Ford Popular 100E Saloon	59-62	£950	£250
Ford Cortina MkII GT	*66-70*	*£1,200*	*£400*
Morris Minor 1000 Saloon	56-62	£1,250	£250
Morris Minor 1000 Saloon	62-71	£1,400	£250
Morris Minor 1000 Traveller	56-62	£1,400	£325
Morris Minor 1000 Traveller	*62-71*	*£1,150*	*£350*
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THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

SIMON WALKER

Millions of workers to go it alone

Self-employment is a growth area, with some 3.3 million people now working for themselves, and the figure is set to soar over the next decade as more companies use contract or casual staff.

Emma Bagnall, left, a graphic designer, is one of this new army of workers with a host of accompanying financial problems — organising tax, arranging pensions, negotiating with bank managers.

Go It Alone, a new Weekend Money series, will tackle every aspect of self-employment, including arranging cover against ill-health and accidents, and how to price your services.

Ignorance of the tax rules has meant that many self-employed people have found the new self-assessment tax returns a headache. This week, on page 58, we explain what the taxman will allow the self-employed to claim and how to put your tax affairs in order.

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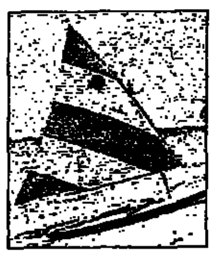

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WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Pensions claims hit crisis point

Caroline Merrell finds funds and deadlines for mis-selling compensation are severely stretched

The pensions mis-selling crisis deepened this week as it was revealed that financial regulators were urgently reviewing the scope of the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) — the investor safety net set up by the Government to protect the clients of financial companies that disappear.

Overall, the costs of compensating those who were encouraged by life insurance salesmen and financial advisers to leave or not join their occupational schemes in favour of taking out a personal pension already look to be greater than the £4 billion originally estimated.

Policyholders who were mis-sold plans by financial advisers that have gone out of business or left the industry have to be compensated through the ICS — a scheme run by the regulators and paid for by the industry. The scope of the scheme is limited to £48,000 per compensation claim and to total claims of £100 million in any one year.

Claims against these firms are already beginning to mount. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the watchdog, has already found 7,000 possible cases of mis-selling, and it still has to analyse 168,000 cases. The ICS estimates that it could have to pay out on at least 16,000 compensation cases.

A spokesman for the scheme claims that it had looked at compensation costs, and estimated them to be an average of £9,000 per case, bringing the price of sorting out these particular ones to £144 million — more than the entire amount that the ICS has paid out since it was set up in 1988.

Last time the ICS looked as though it was going to run out of cash, the Treasury stepped in with a lifeline, to ensure that all investors could be compensated. The Treasury said: "We have not really considered what to do yet, as it is still a hypothetical situation."

The ICS spokesman said: "It is not a case that we will pay out to investors one day, and then stop paying out on the following day because we have reached the £100 million limit."

The £48,000 limit on individual compensation claims is also being looked at by regulators. Compensation for those who were mis-sold a personal pension by a direct salesman, rather than a financial adviser that has vanished, will not be capped in this way. For instance, Pearl has paid out compensation of £500,000 to one victim of mis-selling. If this victim had bought his pension from a now defunct financial adviser, the ICS would not be able to pay out the full amount.

The painful process of reinstating those who were encouraged to give up their company schemes is only just beginning. The figures are astounding. The Treasury estimates that a total of around two million people could have been mis-sold a personal pension — one in three of all personal pensions sold.

The companies are concentrating their effort on reviewing the high priority cases — the dead and the old. Around 500,000 fall into this category. Work on finding the other possible 1.5 million has not even started.

Companies are already nearly one year over the original deadline set by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) for sorting out the priority cases. Only two fifths of these cases have been reviewed and 73,000 offered compensation totalling £452 million. Despite extreme pressure from Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, some companies look set to miss a revised set of crucial deadlines set by the Government. Among those which look likely to miss the deadline is the Prudential, which has the highest number of mis-selling cases, at 60,000.

With the deadline for compensating 90 per cent of priority cases only three days away, Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, has admitted that the company will probably fail to achieve this first goal. Mrs Liddell has said that she is very disappointed with the Prudential. If the pace of review does not pick up to her satisfaction, then she says that she will take extreme action. This could involve raising further powers through Parliament. She has also said that companies that fail to perform will be locked out of any further plans to privatise state benefits.

Some of the biggest companies involved in the scandal have made the following progress: Gan Life, formerly General Portfolio, 9,419 cases for review, 3 per cent sorted out; London and Manchester, 7,513 cases for review, 17 per cent sorted out; United Assurance, 12,141 cases for review, 18 per cent sorted out; Pearl, 39,824, 19 per cent dealt with; CIS, 42,514 cases identified, 24 per cent sorted out; Prudential, 60,724 cases, 23 per cent sorted out; Lloyds TSB, 47,225 cases, 34 per cent sorted out; and Legal & General, 33,389 cases, 50 per cent sorted out.

Life insurance companies are hoping to speed up the compensation process by offering guaranteed schemes — these are legally binding offers that policyholders will suffer no financial loss as a result of pension mis-selling.

Pearl, Legal & General and the Prudential are offering such schemes.

Although these have been criticised by lawyers acting on behalf of pension mis-selling victims, another ten companies have applied for authorisation to offer the plans. Norwich Union is tackling its problems by promising to reinstate pension mis-selling victims. Again this has the effect of rapidly reducing its figures.

PETER LOMAS

Jayne Carvallo faces a year-long wait for compensation

Pressing for action after bad deal

Jayne Carvallo had the unfortunate experience of encountering an employee of NatWest while standing in the queue of her local branch of the bank in South London. She had worked for the local authority for 15 years, but had decided to move down to London to take up a job with a housing association. As an employee of the housing association she was not entitled to join an occupational scheme.

She said: "The man from NatWest said that taking out a pension would be a good way of earning extra money in retirement. He said it was a new way of saving money. It seemed like a good idea at the time."

The bank advised her to transfer her pension into a personal pension from Scottish Life in 1992. After a year working in London she moved back to the North of England to work for the local authority again. Her new job entitled her to join an occupational scheme.

She was alerted to the fact that she could have been mis-sold a pension from the press and television programmes and contacted NatWest in 1994. After a meeting between herself, NatWest and Unison, her union last year, the bank agreed that she had been mis-sold a personal pension, although NatWest did claim that the bank had tried to prevent the transfer from going ahead.

To add insult to injury last week she received a letter from NatWest saying that because she was not dead or retired she was considered to be a non-priority case. NatWest said it would take a further year to compensate her — four years after she initially complained. NatWest said: "We could compensate Ms Carvallo tomorrow, but we are still waiting for the scheme to provide us with information, and they are still waiting for clarification from the Department of Environment on certain matters."

CAROLINE MERRELL

Analysts expect a Rock-steady debut

Shares in Northern Rock, the demutualising building society which makes its stock market debut on Wednesday, could begin trading in a range of 410p to 460p, according to forecasts by some analysts. This follows strong rises in the share prices of banks and converted building societies in the market yesterday. At the top end of the scale, this could yield as much as £2,300 to each member.

Institutions and pension funds have been placing advance orders for the shares and City Index, the financial bookmaker, is currently quoting a price range of between 423p and 433p. This is 20p up on the range earlier this week.

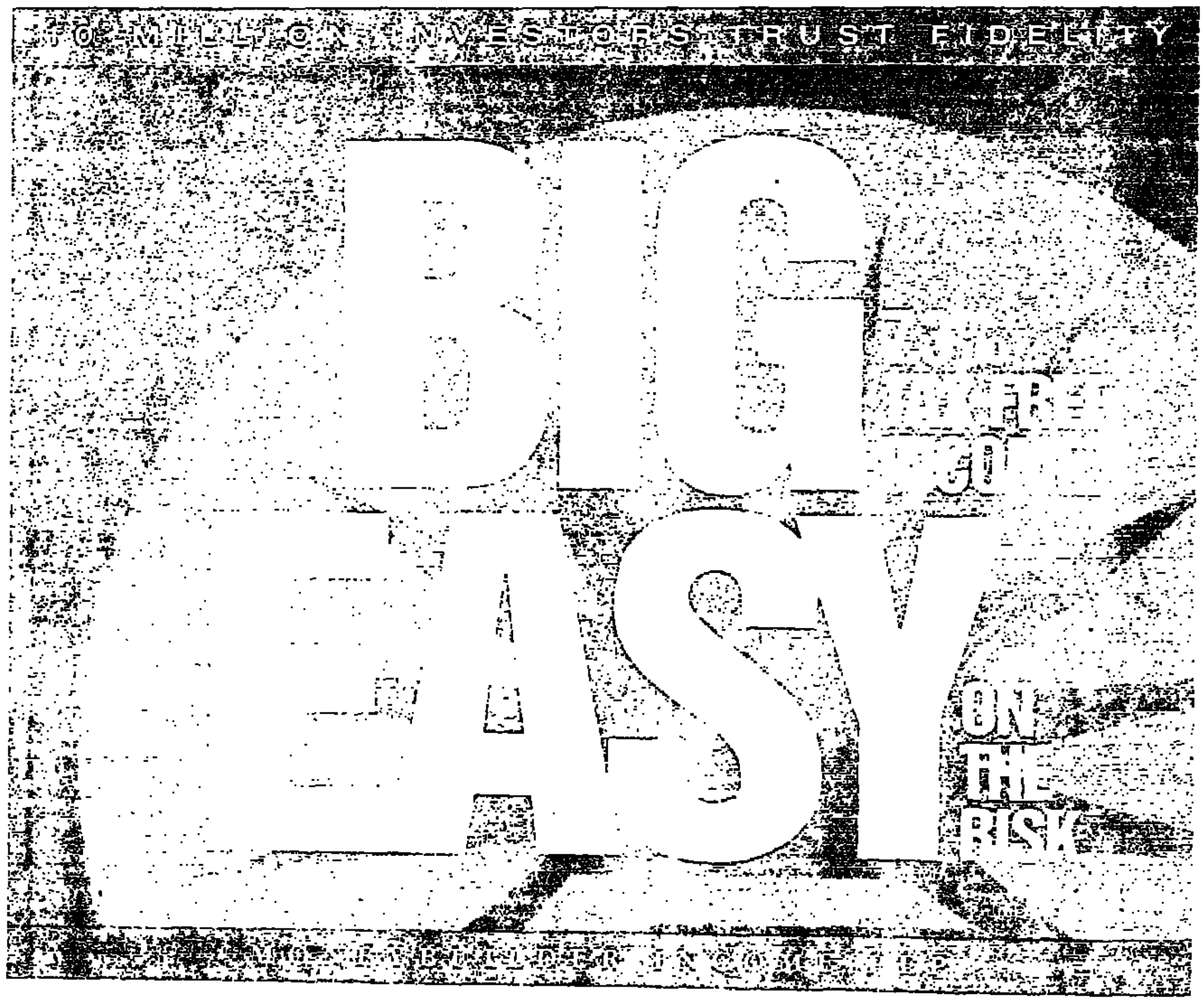
Some analysts feel the shares would be fairly priced even at 500p, bringing each member £2,500. John Leonard, of Salomon Brothers' banking research team, says he is a buyer at 425p or less.

The market seems undaunted by news that more than 40 per cent of members intend to sell their shares immediately. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, recommends members hold their 500 shares. Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers, said the opening share price could be around 410p, "provided there are no shocks in the market between now and Wednesday".

Northern Rock's share of the UK mortgage market is almost 3 per cent, compared with the Halifax's 20 per cent. Half of Northern Rock's new business comes from remortgaging.

There have also been bid rumours. Virgin, Marks & Spencer, Australian National Bank and Australian Mutual Provident have all been suggested as possible buyers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



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Trousers head and shoulders above the rest

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PROPERTY

Millionaire's playground in the sun for only £10 million

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Don't be wet, dive in at the deep end

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Win a Kodak digital camera worth £200

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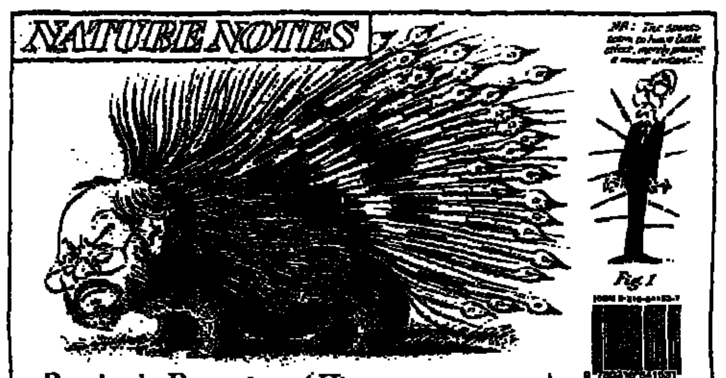
THE TIMES WEEKEND

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

Ordure, ordure: **Michael Gove** examines the animal magic of Peter Brookes, *The Times* political cartoonist

His pen dipped delicately in acid wit



Brookes's Porcupine (*Hirsutus curtoonus*)
When provoked, this unpleasant bit of homework backs into its foe and releases ink-tipped quills. A prickly customer.

Every Saturday, for the past 18 months, Peter Brookes has been working his animal magic in the pages of *The Times*. In his series *Nature Notes*, the Circe of satire turns men into beasts for our amusement. The political cartoonist of the year has made the newspaper's back page the first stop for many Saturday readers with his series of inspired caricatures.

Michael Howard's populist touch at the Home Office was cruelly encapsulated with his depiction as the Giant Panderer (*Mandatoris sentencis*); Margaret Beckett's suppressed socialism was caught with her transformation into a *Painted Lady* which "uses its top profile to blend in with new surroundings and to disguise the true colouring beneath".

The artistry and humour of Brookes's work has won him a loyal following among *Times* readers since 1981 and has now prompted the publisher Little, Brown to put the *Nature Notes* series between hard covers. Although it is Brookes's pitiless eye which delights his fans, some of the most enthusiastic purchasers of the volume are likely to be his skewered subjects. Like an accomplished seducer, Brookes manages by dint of his wit to endear himself to his victims even as he makes fools of them.

One of Brookes's most wickedly satirised subjects, the former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo (Spanish Onion, *Portillista hubrista*) has been a fan for 14 years. He first bought a Brookes original in 1983 when he snapped up a caricature of Roy Hattersley, then Labour's deputy leader. Despite becoming a casualty of the caricaturist himself, Mr Portillo remains an avid collector. He enthuses, "It is wonderful how brilliantly he gets the trademark of a politician. With Major it was the blank glasses, with Blair it's the teeth and, in my case, I suppose my hair was a gift."

As well as admiring Brookes's talent for giving his characters the visual equivalent of a Wagnerian leitmotiv, a signature flourish, Mr Portillo also admires the cartoonist's polictical acuity: "He's so incredibly intelligent. Sometimes I've seen a cartoon that got to the heart of some mistake I made and I think, I wish he hadn't spotted that."

Brookes is not a typical Westminster-watcher. Hunched over his drawing-board in a corner of the *Times* office, or strolling towards lunch in a local pub, he certainly does not look like a creeper down the corridors of power. His beard, fedora and half-moon specs, Prince of Wales suit and suede loafers give him a half-boulevardier, half-bohemian aspect. This is good camouflage for an

Continued on page 2, col 1

JACK DANIELS/WITH THANKS TO WHIPSNADE WILD ANIMAL PARK

It's dirty work — but someone has to do it: With his *Nature Notes*, Peter Brookes makes an honest living from the mess that is left behind by political animals

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"Don't worry, I won't get pregnant. You're Taurus, I'm Aries"

NEW LIGHTER CRISPER HOLSTEN PILS an easier way to change your life

HOLSTEN Pils

Responding to the day's events with an appropriate cartoon is one of the most difficult newspaper jobs . . .

Continued from page 1

observer of political wildlife and also gives no hint of Brookes's professional origins.

Before he first picked up a brush in anger, Brookes was being trained in another form of precision targeting: as a pilot in the RAF. The son of a service family, he joined up full of enthusiasm after leaving school, but even on the first day he was the odd man out. Of all those expected to manoeuvre huge blocks of steel delicately at high speeds through the atmosphere, Brookes remembers, "I was the only one who couldn't drive. I wasn't in the least mechanical. I suppose I should have realised it wasn't for me."

He persevered and learnt to fly RAF jets solo, although not always on the prescribed path: "I used to get lost all the time. Having flown myself and knowing what I did, I'm now terrified of flying. I took the family to the US this year and couldn't sleep the night before."

The time in the RAF was, however, far from wasted. As well as the camaraderie of service life, there was an opportunity to indulge lights that had previously been hidden under bushels. A nascent talent for drawing, which had never been properly tapped at boarding school, was directed in the RAF towards stage set designs and cartoons. Brookes's artistic bent gave rise to suspicions that he was "bolshie" but also secured him a safe passage out of uniform and into art school.

After a year's foundation course in Manchester, he went to the Central School of Art in London, where he was a contemporary of Posy Simmonds. It was the satire boom of the Swinging Sixties, "wonderful, a liberation after the RAF", and although Brookes was studying to be a graphic designer he found himself producing illustrations and cartoons for magazines such as *New Society*. An apprenticeship with a graphic designer turned into a studio-share as Brookes found his extra-curricular illustrations were starting to overwhelm the demands of his day job.

Although he did not then plan to become a full-time producer of freestanding cartoons, Brookes was a disciple of some of the profession's household gods. He remains a particular fan of Illingworth and Pont, the 1950s and 1930s cartoonists, for their drawing style as much as their humour. Brookes's other influences and enthusiasms extended backwards through Heath Robinson to Rowlandson and Hogarth, whose first-edition prints he has collected. Although happy to accept the challenge of illustrating work, Brookes's natural bent was towards cartooning.

A freelance for much of the 1970s, Brookes was lured to *The Times* in the 1980s by Harry Evans, the then Editor. Hired to illustrate others' articles, Brookes occasionally enjoyed the freedom to give his slant on events with freestanding cartoons; but it was only with the accession of Peter Stothard to the Editor's chair in 1992 that Brookes took on the responsibility of providing a daily political cartoon.

The need to come up with a satirical slant on the day's events regularly prompts readers to ask if he ever runs out of ideas, but the deadline imposes its own discipline. "You just have to deliver," he explains self-deprecatingly, "and accept that some ideas are more duff than others."

Most recently he found it difficult to come up with an appropriate cartoon on the day of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and although his representation of the Queen of Hearts was tasteful and poignant, he still believes it was "inadequate to the situation".

Tragic moments do not always find him faltering at the drawing-board. Events such as Dunblane have sometimes inspired his best work and Brookes believes "they have to be done — situations like that demand a response from journalists. Others write, I draw. After Dunblane, half the readers who responded thought it was distasteful to have a cartoon on the subject, but half expressed gratitude that a cartoon had captured their feelings."

Another cartoon which drew venomous complaints concerned the bomb on a bus in the Aldwych, central London, soon after an Israeli bus-bombing. Brookes had the figure of death standing at a bus stop saying: "Strange how you can wait ages for one, then they all come together."

"The problem there is that you are making a serious point about the increasing incidence of this particular kind of atrocity using black humour," he said. "People think you are being frivolous when the exact opposite is the case."

Brookes, however, spends most days drawing humour from folly rather than a message from tragedy. He sees his task as "trying to get behind the posturing, sorting out the wood from the trees and getting to the nub of an issue or a personality in politics."

Some readers detect bias in every line but Brookes is unapologetic. "A cartoon is a comment, it can't be ambivalent. It may be a sort of arrogance for me to express my opinion, but it's satisfying when I've got a point across and readers respond favourably — or even unfavourably. I quite like it when readers complain."

Politicians responding favourably is a different matter. Although it is always nice to be noticed, Brookes is sometimes perplexed by his victims' vanity — seeing any portrait, however wounding, as a trophy. Not all politicians, however, react in the same way. Tony Blair, although careful not to express his own opinion too directly, confided in Brookes that his father was a fan. Peter Mandelson, introduced to the man who styled him "blossom" for one *Nature Notes*, restricted himself to a haughty look but confesses now to a sneaking admiration: "His witty and incisive cartoons, particularly on Saturday mornings, are always entertaining and amusing, if not sometimes a little below the belt. His portrayal of this summer's occasionally stormy events provided light relief and a diversion from other, less welcome, sections of *The Times*."

If there are politicians who strongly dislike Brookes's work (and some approached for comments maintained a diplomatic silence), then they are wise enough to realise that complaining could only make matters worse. Old hands are inclined to make a show of their enthusiasm, however sincere. When Baroness Thatcher was depicted as a Rabid Old Bat (*Federalis anathema*), her aides were on the phone first thing to order the original. "Oh yes, she did like the bat," one gushed, prompting Brookes to wonder if his pen nib would ever penetrate her thick skin.

Ann Widdecombe, the former Home Office minister, collects all her appearances, whether she is depicted as a religious fundamentalist or the Black Widowcombe Spider (*Somethingus ofthenightus*). She accepts Brookes has been tough on the Tories but says: "Cartoonists will always be caustic about those in power, but I do still like his work. After all, I wouldn't spend good money on it otherwise." Ken Clarke, the former Chancellor, writes "charming" personal notes and Brookes's work is part of a formidable collection of political art in the Clarke home. The Treasury team which works with Gordon Brown, his Labour successor, put in a bid for a cartoon of its boss but never followed it through. Brookes has a simple explanation for the different reactions of politicos: "Perhaps vanity is a Tory vice."

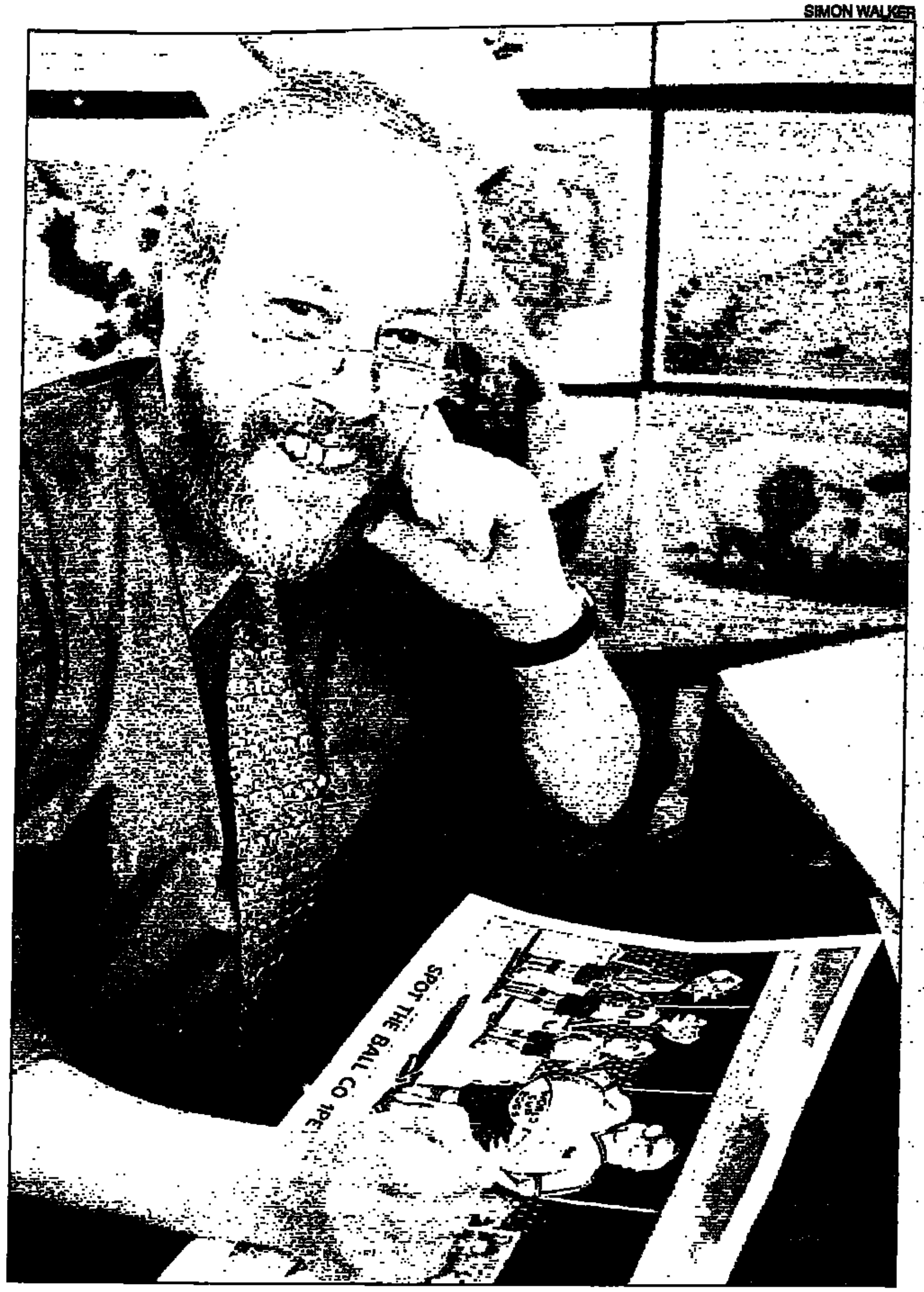
If so, it is not restricted to politicians. One of Brookes's best cartoons earlier this year was a portrayal of Mr Portillo, quiffed, big-lipped and brooding, as Mick Jagger. Mr Portillo was amused and flattered enough to want to buy it. So was Mr Jagger. The Rolling Stone's purchase was the eloquent tribute of one Sixties artist still going strong to another.

● *From today, Peter Brookes's* Nature Notes *will appear opposite the Letters page in the news section every Saturday.*

● Nature Notes *is published by Little, Brown on Thursday at £10. An accompanying exhibition of the original cartoons opens on October 14 at the Chris Beetles Gallery, 8-10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (0171-839 7551).*

● *There will also be a special limited edition of* Nature Notes, *bound in full leather, with an additional drawing signed by Peter Brookes, priced at £100. For details, write to: Foundling Press, 61-63 Lant Street, London SE1 1QN.*

SIMON WALKER



Peter Brookes: "It's satisfying when readers react. I quite like it when they complain"

Wines which age shall not wither

Long-term cellaring is out. **Jancis Robinson** on vintages that mature fast

The white wine revolution of the late 1970s, driven by salesmen of refrigeration plants and resulting in super-clean fruity flavours on to which oakiness was rather ineptly grafted, was followed by a revolution in red winemaking.

This was inspired by the fact that some of the world's most influential producers of red wine, notably in Bordeaux, gradually came to realise that long-term storage of wine was becoming a distinctly minority sport, fraught with practical difficulties in an age when so many people live in centrally heated apartments.

The excessively tannic, often rather acid style that had been traditional for young red bordeaux may have inconvenienced nobody in an Edwardian age when it was normal to keep such wines in a private cellar for several decades until they tasted more supple, but it was at odds with the pace of late-20th-century life.

The result was a sea change in the style of red bordeaux and other red wines, resulting in much deeper-coloured, more intensely flavoured wines that were at the same time softer and gentler to taste young. Thanks to anti-rot sprays that took the panic out of picking times, grapes were allowed to ripen more fully and sumptuously, so the wines became notably lower in acidity and the tannins in the grape skins, stalks and pips were also riper and less harsh-tasting. Once picked, the grapes began to be sorted much more rigorously to eliminate rotten or unripe grapes.

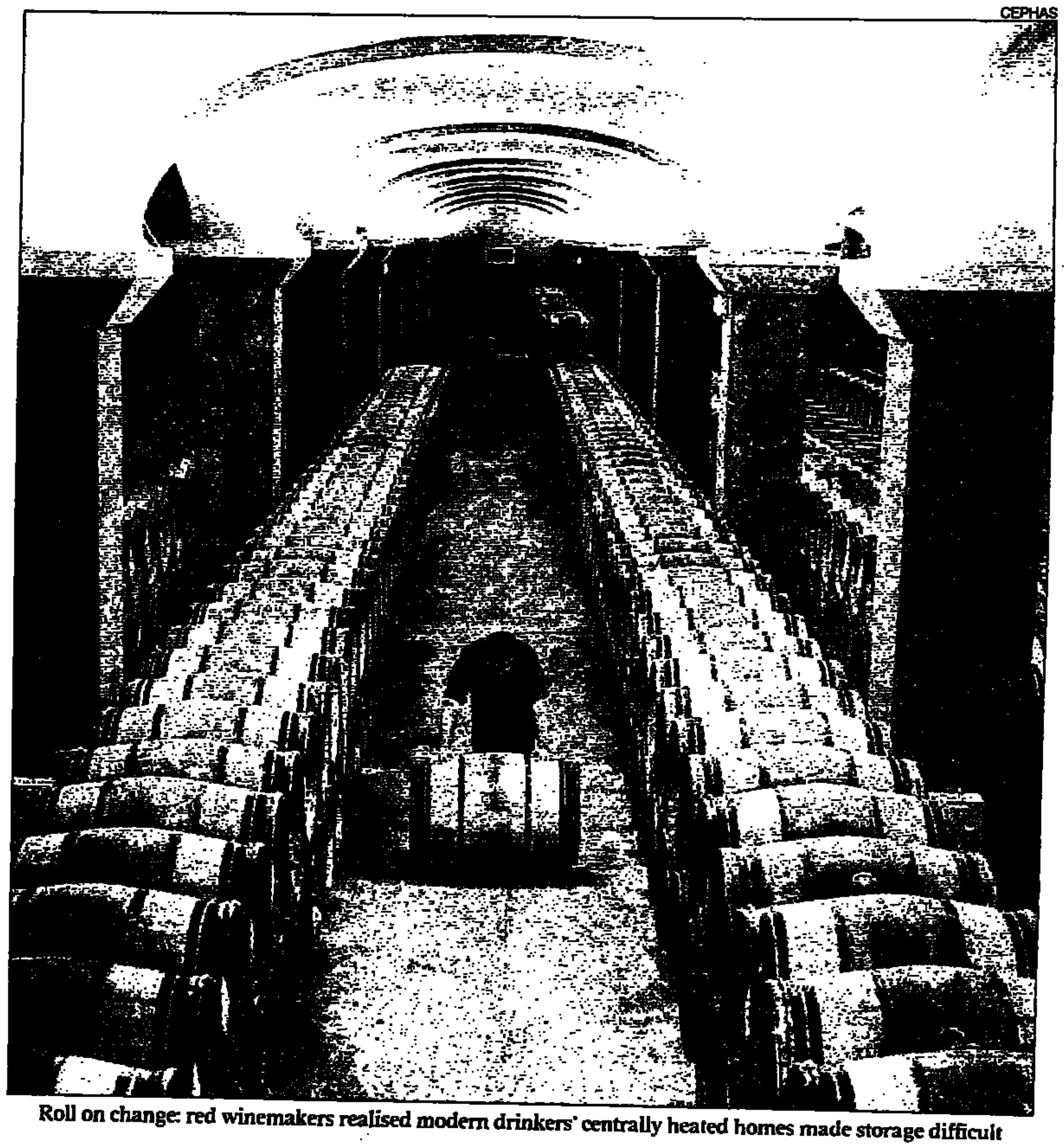
There was much more careful control of temperatures throughout the two-week fermentation process, typically heating the vat a little at the beginning to get things started and then cooling it.

One key element in red winemaking is the extraction of colour, tannin and flavour from the skins, and all quality-conscious producers have been particularly careful of the way they encourage this by mixing up the skins and liquid in the fermentation vat as gently as possible, often using only the wine that will naturally drain off the skins and excluding the much tougher liquid that is squeezed off the leftover skins in the press.

Bordeaux being the hub of the red wine world, subject to scrutiny from winemakers elsewhere, these techniques have been adopted as far as is financially possible for most of the world's fine wines, and certainly by most ambitious producers of Bordeaux-like wines made from cabernet sauvignon and merlot grapes.

I have noticed over the past few years that the red wine faults have changed. In the old days there were too many mean, thin, under-ripe wines but today the disappointments are most likely to be deep-coloured but unbalanced because the colour, leeched out of the grape skins by long maceration (or possibly even physical concentration) is not matched by a similar intensity of appealing ripe fruit.

CEPHAS



Roll on change: red winemakers realised modern drinkers' centrally heated homes made storage difficult

The new, softer generation of red wines, especially classed-growth bordeaux, has not met with universal acclaim. Those with cellarsful of more attenuated, old-fashioned counterparts had a vested interest in wondering aloud whether these new wines would last. It is still too early to answer that. But the question becomes less relevant with every year. Nobody I've ever met is seriously buying wine for their children, let alone their grandchildren. All that seems to be demanded of great wine today is that it has a life of between ten and 20 years, and sometimes not even that.

Red bordeaux is the largest single component of my relatively small cellar, which is full to bursting with about 100 cases. As well as the cellar, I draw from a giant wine rack under the stairs deep enough to store two bottles in each of its 120 holes. This is my pending tray, where I put wines without the sort of future that requires cellaring, as well as serious bottles that I can always put my hands on.

There are certain wines that I seem to drink almost as soon as I buy them. This is true of the odd case of particularly successful pinot noir from Martinborough in New Zealand. Truly successful New World pinots tend to run out of their cardboard cases and on to the dinner table, perhaps because I know how much pleasure they can give — and how unlikely they are to make my fortune as investments.

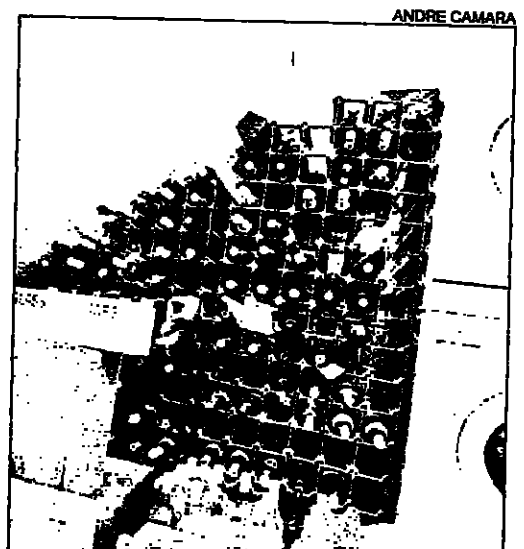
The same is true of fine alsace from the likes of Faller, Trimbach and Schoffit. Trimbach's Riesling Clos Ste Hune is the classic example of slow-maturing alsace white, with so many admirers of its unimpeachably steely purity that its price has been rising out of the "simple pleasure" category.

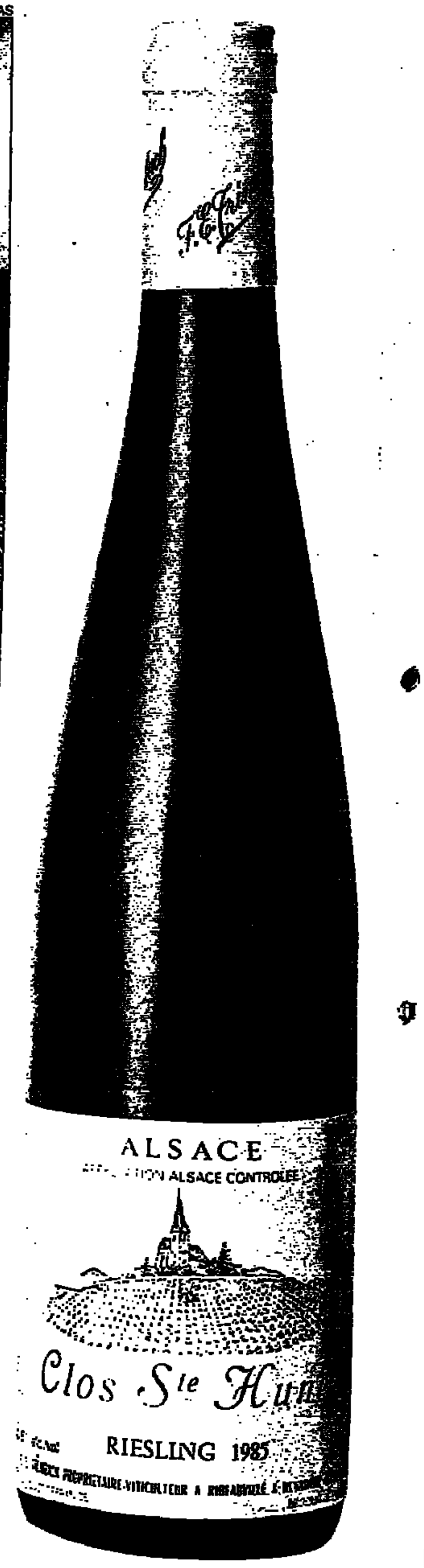
Plumper rieslings, superior pinot blancs, sleeker pinot gris and the most savoury gewürztraminers are some of the wines that disappear fastest from my racks. These full-bodied, scented whites seem so useful, either as aperitifs or with all sorts of food — even quite sturdy "red wine" sort of food, although too many of them nowadays taste sweeter than I'm expecting.

Top-quality German wine is one of my cellar's specialities, representing a minority but, I assure you, very refined taste. Those of us who know that a bottle of mature Mosel riesling is just as fine an aperitif as any champagne are not numerous, but we all know that these wines demand time.

One of the most sublime was a 17-year-old, a J J Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese 1971, opened on New Year's Eve 1988, that was almost gold but still had the hint of green that can betray Mosel origins to the eye alone. It was still tingling with life and youth (Prüm's wines almost fizz in their very early years) but it definitely had a mature bouquet rather than a youthful aroma. The slow evolution of my cellar is entirely due to my Mosel riesling enthusiasm's coinciding with one for top-quality red bordeaux, for these two sorts of wine mature at more or less the same, extremely stately, pace. I wish I had more bottles of Mosel 1983s left. I should padlock my 1989s, and am slightly embarrassed by my inability to keep the powerful wines made by the new stars of the Pfalz, such as Müller-Catoir and Rainer Lingenfelder, unopened in my wine rack for more than a few weeks. These have much more substance than their spindly cousins from the Mosel in the north, and combine the weight of a white burgundy with far more racy acidity and food-friendly structure.

ANDRE CAMARA





Giant wine rack under the author's stairs holds 240 bottles of wine that do not require cellaring. Clos Ste Hune, above, is the classic example of slow-maturing Alsace white

I have yet to make any significant investments in cellaring modern Australian wine, a few magnums of particularly concentrated South Australian shiraz apart, because of so many of them seem ready to drink the moment they're put on sale.

Perhaps the most striking development in recent wine production has been the speed with which Australia has imposed itself on the world's wine map. By the late 1980s it seemed as though my friends had given up European wine for good. Every dinner party was lubricated by bottles and bottles of deep golden Australian Chardonnay.

For years the French underestimated the challenge to their supremacy, interpreting the fact that they produce indubitably the best wines in the world as proof that all their wines were superior. This arrogance has been infuriating, particularly for those of us who worship the best of France's wine culture. In the long term, I think competition from outside, especially from cheeky upstarts, will prove to be the best thing for traditional wine regions and for consumers everywhere.

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● *Extracted from* Confessions of a Wine Lover, *by Jancis Robinson, to be published by Viking at £17.99 on October 13*

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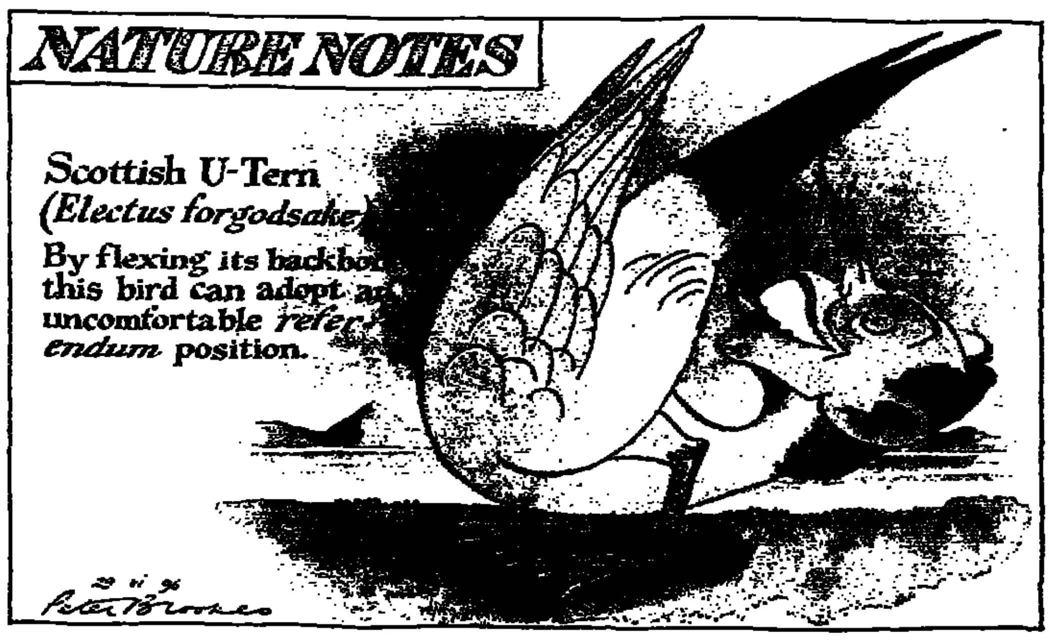
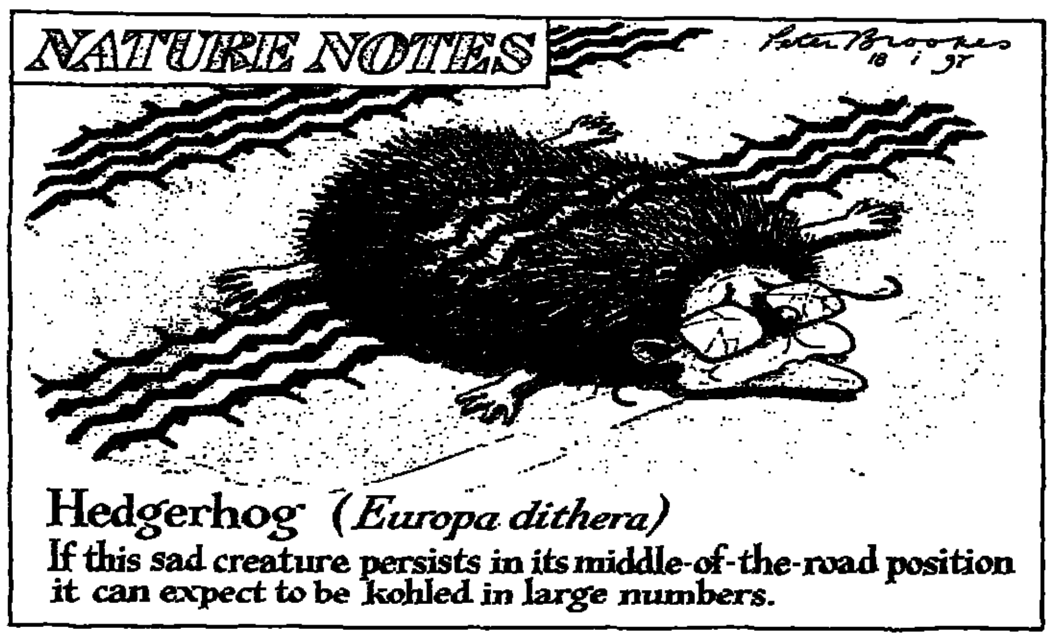
PURE SILK

هكذا من الأهالي

. . . but through his art Peter Brookes conveys succinct comments tinged with a strong whiff of irreverence


NATURE NOTES
Scottish U-Tern
(Electus forgodsake)
By flexing its backbone this bird can adopt an uncomfortable referendum position.
Peter Brookes


NATURE NOTES
Peter Brookes 18 i 97
Hedgerhog (Europa dithera)
If this sad creature persists in its middle-of-the-road position it can expect to be kohled in large numbers.

Drawing on experience

Kenneth Baker examines the new book by *Times* cartoonist Peter Brookes

CARTOONING is alive and well in Britain. Its demise has looked imminent twice this century — first with the advent of photography, then of television. Nowadays people have immediate access to the images of politicians, members of the Royal Family and leading sporting and pop figures. Since they can all be caught in grotesque and embarrassing grimaces, what can the cartoonist add? The answer to that is wit and intelligence.

A cartoon is not just another illustration, it conveys a succinct comment varying from scepticism to irreverence and contempt, and it aims to embarrass the victim with laughter. A good cartoonist will have a clear political perspective, such as David Low's consistent attacks in the Thirties on Baldwin and Chamberlain.

Today we have *The Guardian*'s cartoonist, Steve Bell, who is old Labour right down to the nib of his pen, transferring his contempt for John Major to Tony Blair. The mind of the cartoonist is as important as his talent to draw.

Peter Brookes of *The Times* has one of the sharpest minds in cartooning. He found his calling rather late, having left school to become a pilot in the RAF, before becoming an illustrator.

Most cartoonists start very young. Gillray did his best work in his thirties and forties; a contemporary of his, Newton, died at the age of 21; Theodore Lane, who drew some wickedly funny cartoons of Caroline and George IV, fell to his death in his twenties through a window. George Cruickshank sat and watched his father, Isaac, etching cartoons, and started drawing them himself at the age of 12. He abandoned political cartooning by the age of 30 in favour of illustrations, going on to draw *Oliver Twist*. Brookes is happily a late flowering.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

England and France battle for the world in Gillray's cartoon

As an illustrator, his sketches accompanied articles by Bernard Levin and Simon Jenkins. Then in 1992, he asked the editor of *The Times*, Peter Stothard, whether he could have a go at political cartooning. Fortunately for us all, the answer was "yes".

Brookes's first five years were dominated by John Major's Government. On the day after the election in 1992, he drew his most flattering cartoon of the Prime Minister, standing confidently on his soap box outside No 10, while Neil Kinnock was in the soup.

In that cartoon, Brookes drew the pupils of John Major's eyes behind his glasses, but he soon omitted the pupils to show that Major had no vision of where the country was going. Unkind, but cartoonists do not deal in kindness. William Hague has learnt that lesson already as Brookes portrays him as the Mekon, a strange, barely human android.

CARTOONISTS thrive on big figures — Margaret Thatcher, Michael Heseltine, Ken Clarke — and, above all, on prime ministers. Brookes has therefore been coming to grips with Tony Blair. The physical side is not too difficult — the teeth, the wisp of hair and no doubt soon the wringing of the hands. But to get at the politics of the Prime Minister, Brookes has invented a comic strip character *Dan Blair*, with the ironic subtitle, *Pilot for the Forseeable Future* — the dynamic, confident chap who has all the answers . . . or does he? This is somewhat reminiscent of Vicky's portrayal of Macmillan as Supermac in the late Fifties. It was meant to be ironic, but actually enhanced Macmillan's reputation.

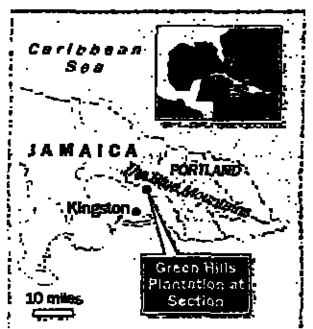
Brookes's book, *Nature Notes*, shows that he is warming to the task of pinning down the new ministers in the Government, a target-rich area with characters such as Prescott, Mandelson, Short and Dobson who, as Health Minister, can look forward to a hard winter of cartooning.

The cartoonist has to search for the unlikely and the bizarre, and one way of doing this is to couple two unrelated contemporary events. For example, when Clare Short discovered her long-lost son, Brookes depicted Tony Blair as finding his long-lost mother — Margaret Thatcher.

A good cartoonist has to delineate the character in his caricature. As Annibale Carracci, the Italian father of caricature, or *caricatura*, said in the late 16th century, cartoonists must "grasp the perfect deformity and thus reveal the very essence of a personality". But it has to be done with an economy of line, and Brookes successfully reduces his victims' characteristics to the bare minimum.

In *Nature Notes*, John Major's opposition to Gillian Shephard's devotion to corporal punishment has him depicted as an angular stick-insect resting on a cane. Heseltine, who had said that there was nothing wrong in keeping companies waiting for their money, is punningly drawn as a cheetah (late-payer Hezza).

A brutal and very Jamaican death



Tunku Varadarajan mourns the shocking loss of a dear friend

DUNCAN TINCELLO

Mark Twyman at Oxford in a 1984 photograph taken after an exam. He went on to achieve a BA in chemistry

Widowed Mary-Anne holds baby Nicholas Mark, who will never know his father

On July 9, 1997, two evil men murdered Mark Twyman — my friend, my buddy, my mate — outside his cottage in Jamaica's Blue Mountains, where he grew the world's best coffee on his father's sprawling farm. We know there were two killers because Mark's body bore the wounds of two different guns.

The men shot him six times: five bullets in the back as he tried to escape, and once in the heart, the gun so close to his body that there were powder burns on his chest. The last shot was fired as he lay, barely alive, on a steep hillside. In Mark's right hand, caught in a death-grip, was a wristwatch, wrenched from one of his assailants, as his own life was being wrenched from him. It was a coarse death, a brutal death, a very Jamaican death.

The local papers, turned callous by 1,000 murders a year, mentioned his end in no more than 50 dry words. There was no mention of his wife, Mary-Anne, then eight months pregnant with their first child. Now, she is the mother of Nicholas Mark, six weeks old, who will never see his father.

I fly to Jamaica next weekend for Mark's memorial service. His ashes will be interred on a mist-wrapped slope at Green Hills by his family, accompanied by a small knot of friends from Kingston and New York, London and Oxford. We will shed quiet tears for Mark, and, I hope, toast him in coffee, the drink for which he gave his life.

I knew Mark from Oxford, where we were undergraduates together: he at Pembroke, I at Trinity, he a chemist and I a lawyer. We first met in 1981, at a freshers' party at the Oxford Union. We last met in December, 1994, considerably wiser, when he was on holiday in London — "to buy books and records, and to get a bit of culture", as he then put it.

He bought a compact disc — I think it was a symphony for the organ by Charles-Marie Widor — and we listened to it in my new flat in Islington. We had just played squash, and were sweating profusely. I remember the Jamaican lilt in his voice, and the swell of the organ music.

Mark is now dead. He was killed, we believe, by his own integrity. After long years in England — a BA in chemistry at Pembroke, a doctorate, a research fellowship at Oxford, and a spell as a research scientist with Exxon in Abingdon — he returned to Jamaica in 1993, determined to work for the country in which he was born. He would have been 35 this December.

"Well people," he wrote to his friends at the time. "After years of talking about it, yours truly is actually taking that big step. Yep. I'm going to give Jamaica my best shot. Idealistic tomfoolery? Simply stupid and ill-informed? Or inspired? I don't know. But, *'im a go back a yard fi true yu know!*"

Mark took charge of his father's farm, the Old Tavern Estate, and coffee output trebled within three years. For the first time, the farm was being run as a proper commercial enterprise. He also pitched in with the rest, and people still talk of "this *little white man*", with a doctorate from Oxford, humping bags and cutting weeds with the farmworkers. He also taught at village schools and picked up his workers at the crack of dawn. To them he was always "Mark", never "Mr Twyman, Sir".

Yet Mark was stubborn. Mark had integrity. He got these features from his father, Alex, who migrated to Jamaica in 1958 from Forest Gate, in east London. Alex, who came to work as a quantity surveyor, soon married Dorothy, who belonged to an old white Jamaican family. Together, a decade later, they bought a plot in the Blue Mountains and started the farm.

A man of iron honesty, Mark rubbed the "coffee establishment" up the wrong way. He was swiftly embittered by the openness with which coffee producers were robbed, the audacity with which stocks were plundered. It is an open secret in Jamaica that the profits from these thefts line not just the pockets of the pilferers, but also of those officials who control Jamaica's coffee milieu.

Mark witnessed these thefts, which cost his farm not petty cash but thousands of dollars. He spoke out against them repeatedly. He had warned people to stop *tiefing*, and taken down the numbers of licence plates.

In doing so he made enemies in high places. This, surely, was why he was murdered. And this, surely, is why the police have now called off the investigation into his murder, a mere ten weeks after his death.

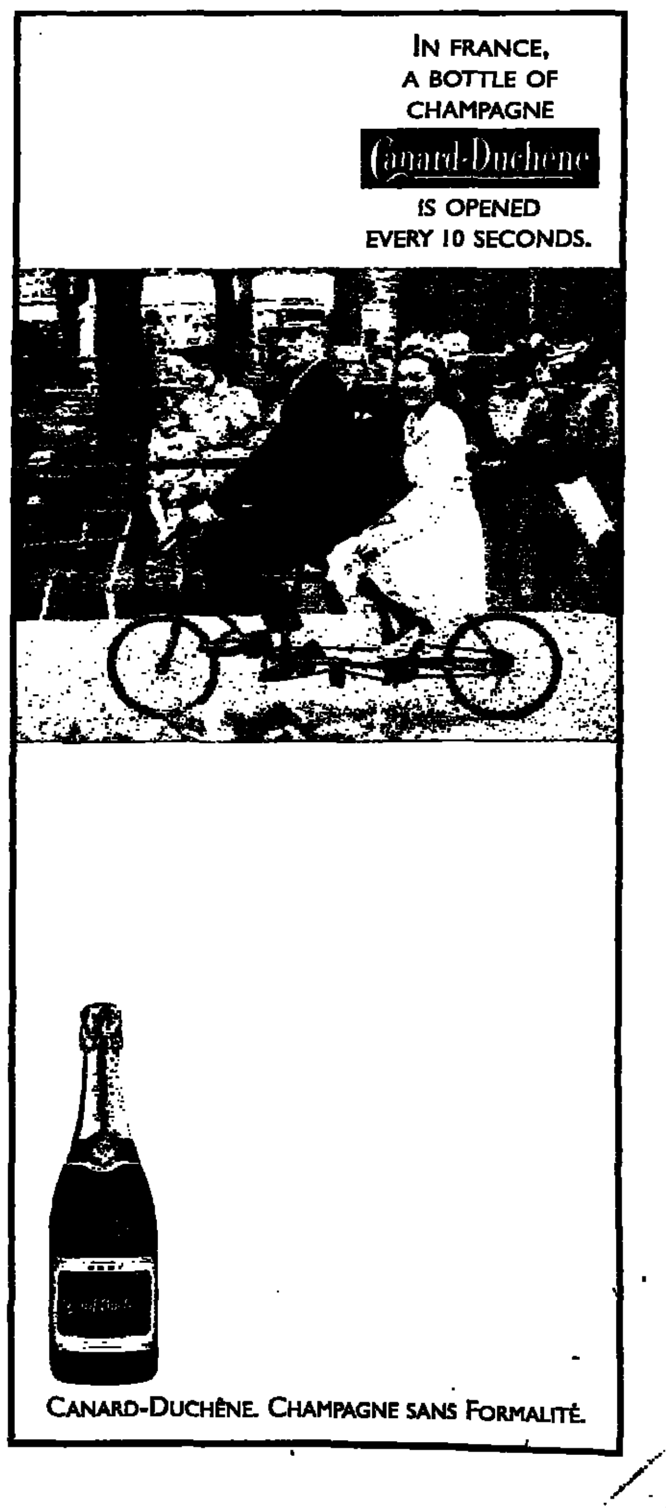
There is more: for 25 years Mark's father battled the Jamaican Coffee Board's monopoly, fighting for a licence that would allow him to export his coffee independently, and free him from the law that forced him to sell all his beans to the board.

Mark had thrown his weight behind his father's struggle for a licence, bringing an Oxonian polish to what had previously been a rough-and-tumble campaign by his gruff and artless father.

With Mark's skills, the Twymans won. On July 9, the very day of his murder, the export licence finally came through. The world, for Mark, looked brilliant that morning: a new licence for the family after a quarter-century of attrition, a devoted wife who was eight months pregnant, his Jamaican dream in full flower. At 5.30pm that day, drained after his labours, he returned home, to the beautiful, sylvan cottage where he lived.

But they were waiting for him there. Two men, one with an automatic rifle, the other with a handgun. Mark was attacked as he alighted from his Land Rover, parked on the gravel driveway. The car's door was still ajar the next morning when a search party found him, soaked in the dew of the Blue Mountains. He was dead, his fine life destroyed by a volley of callous bullets, his body slumped against a coffee bush.

Mark Twyman — my friend, my buddy, my mate — died a coarse death, a brutal death, a very Jamaican death.


IN FRANCE,
A BOTTLE OF
CHAMPAGNE
Canard-Duchêne
IS OPENED
EVERY 10 SECONDS.
CANARD-DUCHÊNE. CHAMPAGNE SANS FORMALITÉ.

Lady Cobbold tells **Mike Cable** how CRA helped her to refashion Knebworth House

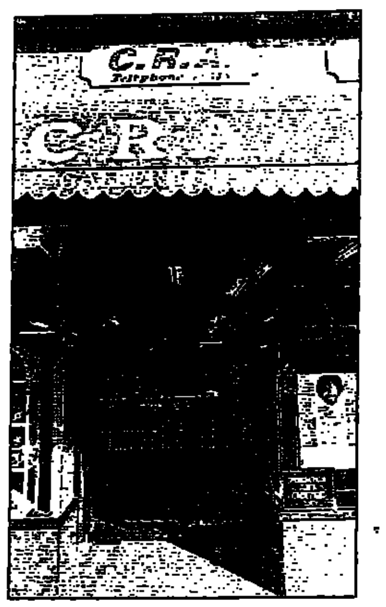
Loving revival of a rock pile

Rock 'n' roll helped to put stately home Knebworth House back on the map with the likes of Elton John, the Rolling Stones and Oasis headlining a series of massive open-air festivals staged in the 250-acre park.

Behind the scenes, however, the struggle to save the Hertfordshire estate, in the same family for more than 500 years, has not always been quite so glamorous for Lord and Lady Cobbold.

Running a stately home is a notoriously difficult business and despite the success of the concerts and other attractions that they have introduced since taking over Knebworth from Lord Cobbold's parents in 1970, there have been times when they have come close to going under.

my favourite shop



The entrance to CRA, favoured haunt of artists in St Albans

RICHARD FAULKS

Lady Cobbold at the shop with a restored Regency dining chair. "It was the only place that sold the sort of cane fabric that I needed"

It was partly to help cut costs that the shy and unassuming Chryssie Lytton Cobbold — as she prefers to be known — taught herself upholstery, curtain-making and picture-framing, personally refurbishing much of the interior of the house.

Over the years she has tackled everything from the repair of delicate antique silk curtains to the complete restoration of a magnificent 18th-century four-poster bed in the bedroom once used by author Edward Bulwer-Lytton's mother. In her workroom she even set about rewiring all the table and standard lamps.

It was after she decided to re-cane a set of 16 antique Regency dining chairs that she first discovered CRA, a large, two-storey shop in nearby St Albans that specialises in art and craft materials and picture framing.

"After a lot of ringing around, it was the only place I could find that sold the sort of cane fabric that I needed," she recalls. "Then, when I went in, I found that it was full of all kinds of other interesting things."

When it first opened as a small corner shop in the city 20 years ago, what was then known as the Centre for Restoration and Arts concentrated mainly on upholstery and furniture restoration.

But by time it moved to its present premises six years ago, it had started to concentrate more on the art side. "In St Albans it seems that everyone is an artist," explains Denise Davis, one of the four partners who run the family business. "There are an awful lot of art societies in the area."

An endlessly energetic mother of four grown-up children, Lady Cobbold herself likes to paint — when she can find the time.

"I'm lousy at it, but when I'm on holiday I like to have a go and I come here for all my materials," she says. "I do a lot of picture-framing at the house and they have a huge framing department here, which is useful.

"I also make a lot of cushions and this is where I get embroidery wool that I use." Her eye alights on some plain white silk ties that can be hand-painted with one's own design. "I love that idea; I think I might do one as a present for my husband," she says.

Browsing further among the packed shelves, she points out some miniature wallpapers of the kind she used to renovate an antique doll's house, dating from 1780, for the museum at Knebworth.

"I also made a doll's house for my daughter Rosina when she was little," she recalls, adding: "I just itch to make things. And working with my hands is something which has always come naturally to me."

Upholstery and the caning of chairs are skills she taught herself from books. "I never go to classes," she says. "My mind goes completely blank when someone actually tries to tell me how to do something. I suppose that's why I never did very well at school."

The daughter of Sir Dennis Stucley, Chryssie was brought up at Hartland Abbey, an even bigger stately pile than Knebworth, so she was no stranger to the problems involved in keeping such places going.

In her book *Board Meetings in the Bath*, she tells how she, as company secretary, and her husband, as chairman, planned the events, the attractions and the developments that have enabled them to hang on to the house that was built by Lord Cobbold's ancestor Robert Lytton in 1492.

Another book, *Knebworth Rock Festivals*, recalls her personal memories of nearly 20 major rock events that have been staged there since 1974, regularly attracting as many as 120,000 people.

Although she is a keen rock fan, Chryssie admits that she was a little apprehensive when the idea was first put to her. "But the promoter told us: 'Everybody has their price, name yours.'

"We mentioned a figure which seemed like a fortune to us, never thinking it would be accepted, and he said yes immediately. So that was it.

"And, we never regretted it. It has been good commercially and we have never had any real trouble. On the whole, everybody has always been very well behaved."

Her latest project involves editing and reprinting the works of her husband's great-great grandfather, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, whose close friend Charles Dickens often stayed at Knebworth, where he wrote part of *David Copperfield*.

"We've put Knebworth back on the map. Now I'd like to do the same for Edward Bulwer-Lytton's writings," she says.

● CRA, *13-15 Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JJ (01727 851555). Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-5pm.*

BARGAIN BASEMENT

There are bargains to be had at markets, boot sales, junk shops and stalls all over the country. Let loose on them with £100, what would you buy?

Time was that the idea of buying anything at a festival that wasn't a pint of yellow lager in a waxed cup or a lukewarm pie was laughable bordering on the insane. Festivals were for students, the terminally unemployable, and people who'd never been the same since they'd done that dodgy acid in 1978. They didn't want to *buy* things. They wanted to clap at things, drink things, and throw things up later.

But now that festivals have become lucrative "parts of the season", consumer opportunities are endless. The Womad World Music Festival had large African wardrobes and Middle Eastern brass coffee tables for sale, while Glastonbury offered yurts (samosa-like twig tents) for a reasonable £50.

Reading festival, alas, isn't so hot. The grooviest things on offer are Los Wibblies — small wooden animals the size of a 50p coin, with heads on springs.

The ubiquitous jester's hats are becoming evermore dangerous — often up to three storeys high, and festooned with a distressing number of jangling bells. At night, the sounds of drunken revellers falling into drainage ditches is punctuated by the oddly affecting sound of Santa's sleigh.

And, for those who like their clothes colourful, the jackets made of candlewick bedspreads and old curtains made the festival-site look like it had been dressed by Vivienne Westwood. Otherwise, it's all dope-smoking accoutrements — hookahs in the shape of two lovers; a skull; a Coke bottle with "Toke" cunningly written on it.

I'm old school in my festival purchases: I spent most of my money on lager. You know where you are with lager.

Jester's hats: ubiquitous fare at music festivals

● **Los Wibblies: £2.50 each; demonic mirror that looked like Les Dennis: £12; candlewick jacket in red and yellow: £15; two skirts in gold curtain material: £14; knitted floor-length dress: £15; star-shaped lampshade: £15; rainbow-patterned aniseed flavour cigarette papers: 50p; hookah in the shape of a penis: £20.**
Total: £94.00.

CAITLIN MORAN

GADGETS

It is difficult to imagine life without hi-fi speakers, but positioning them correctly is always fraught with pitfalls. Often speakers' umbilical cords are too short to place them far enough apart for true high-fidelity sound, unless you add extensions. On the floor they are wasted; on the wall, cables dangle untidily.

Life would be easier if you could place speakers wherever they sounded best. The answer is cordless speakers, and although the first are hardly top-of-the-range, future versions surely will be. They work with a transmitter, which plugs into any sound source, like the headphone socket of a Walkman, with a mini-jack plug. There is also a standard plug adaptor so you can use it with either the hi-fi or the television.

The stereo speakers, each powered with four AA batteries, can be placed anywhere within a 50ft radius. The freedom is sensational, allowing you to take listening pleasures to unlikely places like the loo, bedroom, attic or garden shed. It is especially good for allowing you to play music you couldn't ordinarily cart around effortlessly, like vinyl records.

Cordless speakers: music just where you want it

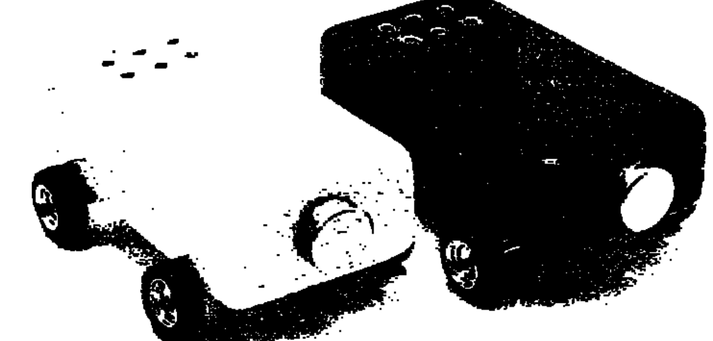
The sound can be on the thin side, reception is not always perfect and, since the feed is taken from a headphone socket, this cuts out primary speakers, a setback if you want piped Mantovani in every room. However, several speakers can be fed by one transmitter.

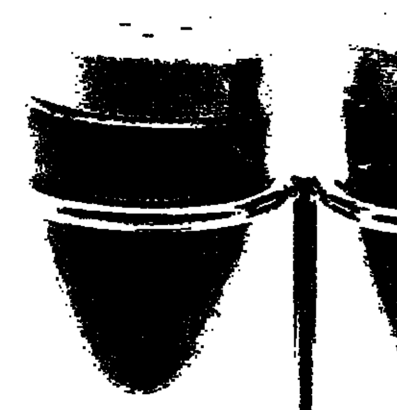
The biggest drawback is that the speakers can only be purchased as an add-on: the essential transmitter unit is sold with miserable cordless stereo headphones that hiss more than Sid.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Cordless headphones and transmitter plus two speakers package, £69.95 plus p&p, from Innovations (0990 807060).*

BELOW: Brum Brum ceramic salt and pepper cars, £35, from Worldwide Co, (0171-372 7523). This entertaining set demands a long table, as the wheels really work, allowing guests to whizz the duo from one end to another





Not everything in black and white's a grind

SALT AND PEPPER POTS

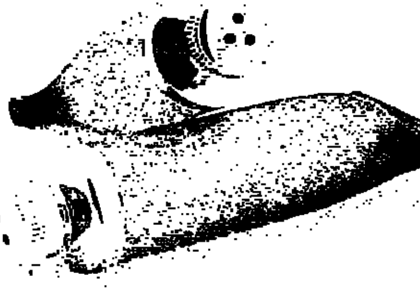
IF YOU are tired of the same old grind, put some zing back in on your table with the season's hottest twisters and shakers.

Maddalena Bonino at Bertorelli, one of London's leading Italian restaurants, says it is not just the containers that matter; it is the contents, too. Black peppercorn is best for grinders, she says, as the mixtures of white and brown tend to produce a result that is too powdery. To Bonino, "nothing beats a good grinder, so that guests can adjust the seasoning of the food it to their taste". She also suggests sea-salt crystals, as they grind better than flakes. Crystals are always available in specialist shops but most large supermarkets should stock them at half the price. When it comes to size, this is one instance, Bonino says, when it really doesn't matter: what counts is the density of the seasoning and the pleasure of the twist.

Whatever your taste, this season there are numerous pairs to suit: whether they are easy to clean and fill, fun to use or just gorgeous to look at.

CAROLINE GRIFFITHS

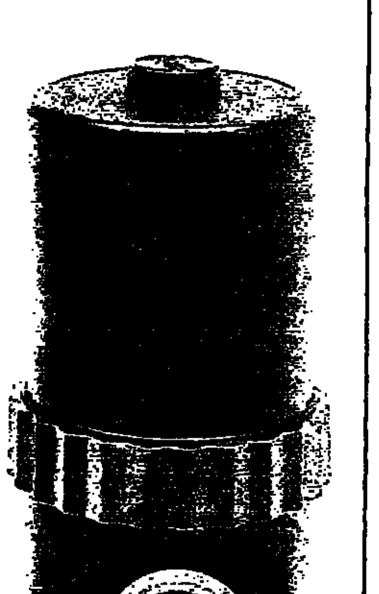
RIGHT: Italian designed "Push-Up" ceramic salt and pepper shakers with stand, £35, from Worldwide Co (0171-372 7523). American-style, they fill from the top; clean in warm soapy water and make sure they are dry before filling



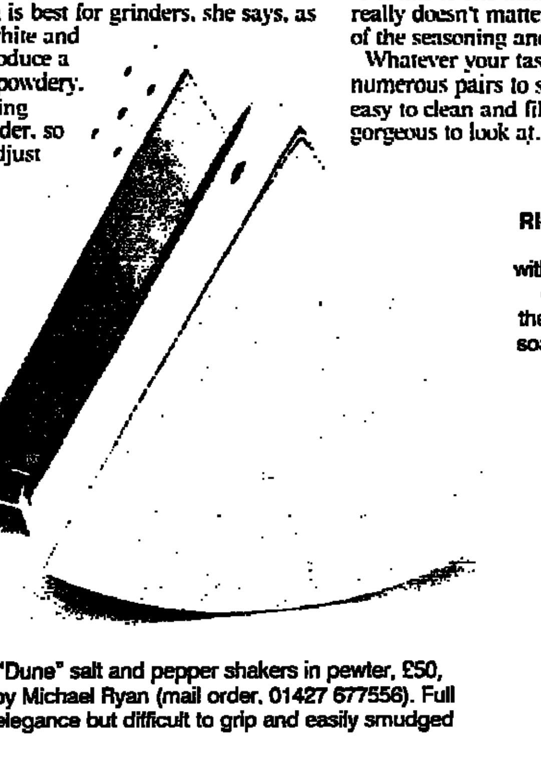
RIGHT: Toothpaste-tube plastic salt and pepper pots, £6.95, in green or blue, from Estilo, (0181-944 6868). Fun and practical, these shakers have a washer that stops the contents from spilling even if they are lying flat

ABOVE: Another design classic duo from the Alessi design team: pepper mill with Peugeot mechanism and adjustable grind, £53, and salt shaker, £32, from Estilo (as above). Clean with a damp cloth or use a polish and rub gently

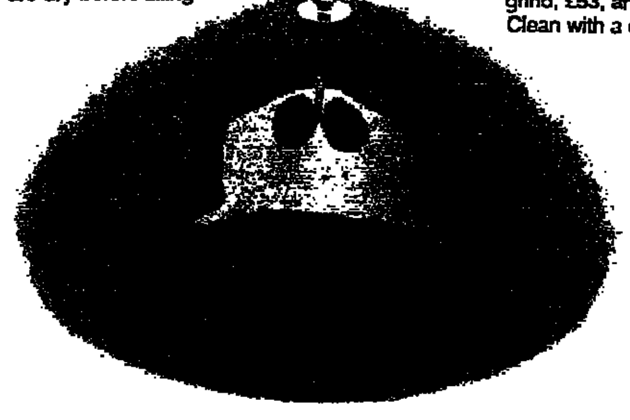
RIGHT: Sarah Jordan's silver "Embrace" pots, £55 (mail order, 0181-444 2331). Beautifully crafted but time-consuming to fill

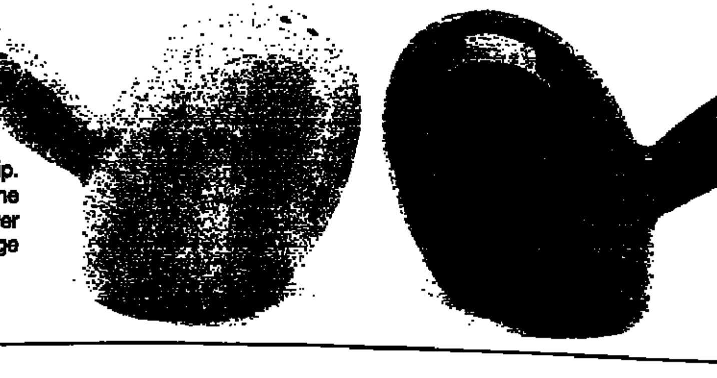


ABOVE: Battery-operated pepper grinder, £9.99, from John Lewis (0171-828 1000). This magical creation not only grinds your pepper at the push of a button, but it also lights up. Ideal for the technophile with poor vision.



ABOVE: "Dune" salt and pepper shakers in pewter, £50, designed by Michael Ryan (mail order, 01427 677556). Full marks for elegance but difficult to grip and easily smudged



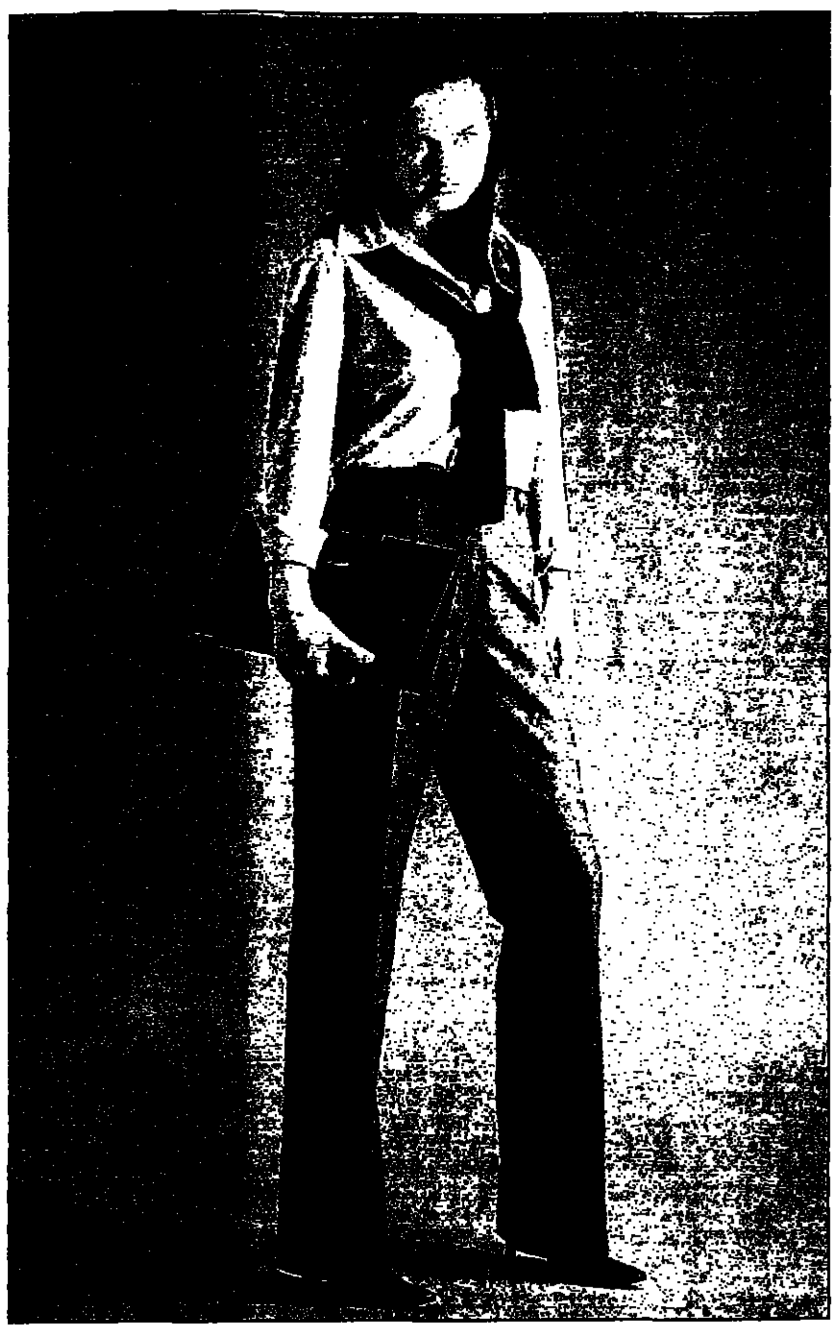


RIGHT: Pollicino ceramic salt and pepper shakers, £16.25, from Worldwide, (as above). Available in blue and ochre, with a handle for good grip. Not easy to fill; try up-ending the shaker into a tea towel to cover the holes, preventing any spillage

PHOTOGRAPHS: DES JENSON

هكذا من الاعلان

The latest wide-legged styles are the answer to every woman's trouser dilemma, **Heath Brown** writes



MAIN PICTURE: Merino cowlneck sweater, £55, Jigsaw, branches nationwide (0171-491 4484). Grey flannel trousers, £59, Kookai, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411). Cowboy boots, £295, Gina for Ghost, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2932)
ABOVE: Blue stretch shirt, £19.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822). Cashmere sweater, £220, Jil Sander; grey check trousers, £310, Sonia Rykiel, both Browns, 25-26 South Molton Street, London W1, and 6 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-491 7833). Clutch bag, £135, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1, and branches nationwide (0171-629 6903). Cowboy boots, Gina for Ghost, as before.
LEFT: Grey knit T-shirt, £240, Jil Sander, Browns, as before. Side-split trousers, £190, Valencia *(0171-833 1410). Boots,* Gina for Ghost, as before

Photographs by **Richard Burns.** Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim.** Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

Wear them far and wide

To many women, the idea of wearing trousers is out of the question: worries about the size of their thighs or *their bottom take over. They* should stop fretting: the new wide-leg trouser styles are perfect for hiding every imperfection: loose flowing, but tailored for a flattering fit, they can look fabulously elegant and will add another dimension to every wardrobe, giving women ever more combinations to choose from.

For the look, think back to the simple sophistication of Katharine Hepburn in her heyday, when softly tailored wool pants were worn with crisp white blouses or plush cashmere sweaters. It is a refined lounge style that became popular in the late Forties, when women — who had only worn trousers in factories and offices while the *men were off to war* — started wearing pants to every occasion in peacetime, breaking all previous conventions about society parties. Although trousers were considered to be very masculine at the time, this new style moulded them to make them womanly, with soft folds and feminine flairs to flatter curves and emphasise waspish waists.

Today, as then, the style is particularly flattering if you get the proportions right: a wider trouser leg takes the emphasis away from the hips and gives limbs a longer shape. The long, elegant look is made to look even leaner and slimmer when worn with slim heels: the effect of a slender ankle offers the illusion of a long, thin leg beneath the flowing folds. Boots with heels are ideal to achieve this look or sharp, spindly sandals from stores such as Bertie, which has the perfect stiletto boot in black suede or leather for £75 (0171-935 2002), or Gina, which has wonderfully spiky slingbacks.

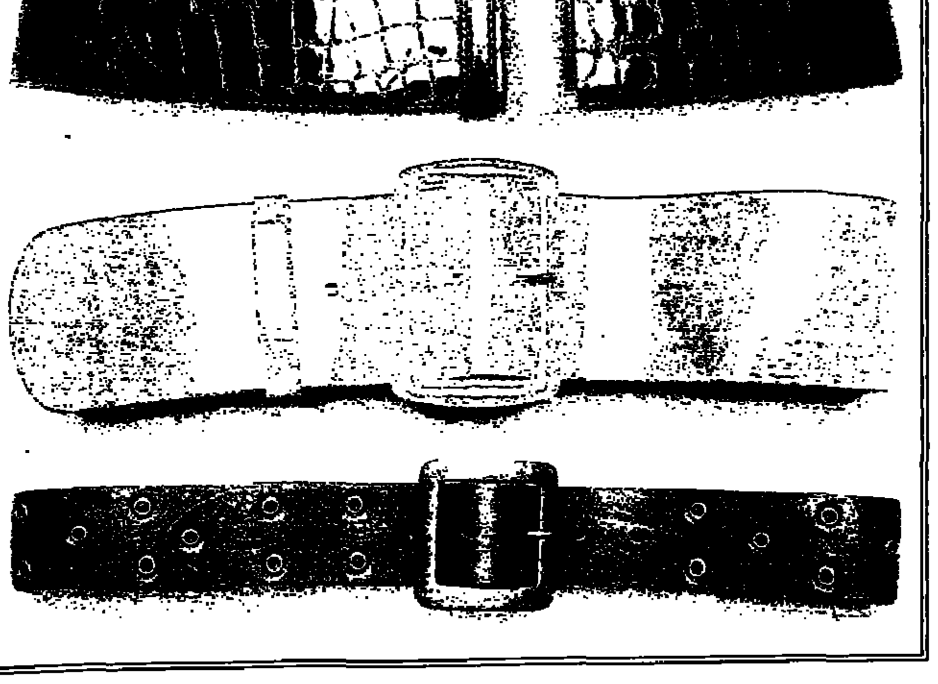
Wear *tight-fitting* knits and small, shaped jackets, which make the legs look longer and the waistline narrower, to extend this look throughout the body. A bustier, a nipped-in jacket, a tiny cardigan or a tight T-shirt will accentuate the flowing lower half even more, emphasising the floppy mass of fabric beneath the waist, but keeping the look slim and elegant. This season's shoulder-padded jackets are also ideal accompaniments, creating a severe version of the Joan Crawford hourglass silhouette that is angular and handsome.

If you are a woman who wears the pants, now is the time to step out in style. Forget *slimline cigarette pants*, bootcut styles, naff Seventies flares and stretch jeans. When it comes to striding out in trousers, the wider the leg-width and the more flowing the fabric, the better.

Double-breasted suit: trousers, £310, jacket, £615, Sonia Rykiel; black sweater, Browns, as before. Tan classic brogues, £175, Jones, 112 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (freephone 0800 163519)

THREE OF A KIND

It is not just trousers that are going wider. A broad belt will diminish the circumference of your waist and help to keep you upright and elegant. HB



TOP: Black patent mock-croc wide hipster belt, £78, Sally Gissing (0171-267 9303).

MIDDLE: Red patent wide belt, £45, Otto Glanz, from most major department stores nationwide (0181-365 1711)

BOTTOM: Black soft leather hole-punched wide belt, £79, Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 3900)

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q Mr B. Davis of Lampeter and Mrs. D. Hayes of Bedford both write to ask how to deal with a forest of suckers coming up from the roots of sumach trees (or possibly tree of heaven — *Ailanthus*) blown down earlier in the year. Their concerns are how to kill the suckers without damaging lawns, and whether the suckers are poisonous to animals.

A As Mr Davis points out, sumachs can live for years with barely a sucker. But if one blows down, as opposed to dying of old age or disease, then a forest of suckers will appear. All that energy has to go somewhere. If a live sumach blows over and you do not want suckers, then it pays to kill the stump with RootOut.

The garden species of sumach, *Rhus typhina* and *glabra*, should not be confused with poison sumach, *Toxicodendron vernix*. The latter is seriously poisonous, but the garden sumachs will only cause digestive disturbances in humans if eaten raw. I assume stock are even less susceptible.

Q I have a well established *Hydrangea petiolaris* clinging to the stucco on my house. I have been told that this plant and ivy, can penetrate the stucco. When I took ivy off stucco previously, it left marks which I could not remove. Should I remove the hydrangea and plant something else on this west wall? Could I turn it blue? — Mrs M. Bishop, Newton Abbot, Devon.

A First, no, you cannot blue the flowers of *Hydrangea petiolaris* like the shrubby hortensias. If only you could. Imagine a vigorous climber with large blue flowers, for shade. Second, yes, the marks — the remains of the hydrangea's aerial roots — linger for many years, especially on rougher stucco or pebble-dashing. Repainting the wall is the best disguise.

A council of architectural perfection would be to remove the hydrangea, and indeed, if the stucco is at all in poor condition, then the hydrangea will open up the cracks and let water in to freeze and burst the stucco. On the other hand, if the stucco is sound, why not enjoy the hydrangea for a few years? The canopy of the plants will offer some frost protection to the stucco. The most efficient self-clinging climber, without aerial roots but with less invasive suckers only, is the small-leaved creeper *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Veitchii'.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

Sir Peter plays Caliban to Lady Parker's Prospero. "Caliban does all the wheelbarrowing," he says

Twin pools mirror their makers

ME AND MY GARDEN: SIR PETER PARKER

Jane Owen visits an estate where minds are entwined

We have Sir Peter Parker to thank, in part, for the Japanese garden in Holland Park, west London, and for the fact that so many of our remaining railway stations are floriferous. And that in turn is thanks to Lady Parker, who tamed her seascape-loving husband and trained him in the beauty of the garden.

Soon after he took over as chairman of British Rail, Sir Peter brought hanging baskets to his local station, Charlbury in Oxfordshire. "I was a pale, city child," he says. The first garden of his childhood, in Hull, was "very tiny and completely unmemorable. The seaside was my playground". A leading industrialist (currently the chairman of Mitsubishi Electric) and still an active member of the Establishment, Sir Peter has a remarkably other-worldly air.

For him, garden influences were sown young even if they took time to germinate. During his childhood in Shanghai (his parents moved there from Dunkirk in 1931) the Buddhist monks of a nearby temple let him and his gang play in the temple gardens.

"Far too boisterously, I think. But I remember how sculptural the gardens were." His fascination with Japan brought him the chair of the Japan Festival in 1991 and that in turn brought London the Japanese garden.

In London the Parkers are masters of a minute, Japanese-style garden; in Oxfordshire they are masters of 60 acres, six acres of which are cultivated. At first glance the style of their country garden is classically English but then, on closer inspection, the style is more unusual.

Apart from a few areas, the garden is largely the creation of Lady Parker, a Notting Hill GP and chair of the British False Memory Society who has written about the making of the garden in *The Purest of Pleasures* (Hodder and Stoughton, now out of print).

The "Garden of Desire" is carved out of an acre of old orchard bought from a neighbour only a year ago. Mirabelle plum trees and pears are a reminder of the garden's past. Sir Peter's next project is to have a ghost village of ironwork structures made, gazebo-like, over this newly annexed area, which was a village as recently as the last century.

"This is my mockery," he says of a small rockery-like area by the house, where alpines grow alongside a couple of heathers that have been "smuggled in", as Lady Parker puts it, frowningly.

The two Parker styles are at their most obvious in the water garden. Her pool is romantic and uneven with a self-seeded rose arching over one edge and a pair of picturesque ducks which choose her pond, not his, to come and mate in. His pool is formal and symmetrical, studded with white water lilies and rippling with koi carp. A fountain plays at one end and two tiers of incredibly well-disciplined *Alchemilla mollis* cascade along one side.

The garden floats above layer upon layer of history: a Roman road, probably more Roman remains in the form of a large villa, Saxon remains and then, not far beneath most of the garden, a pattern of stone and cobble floor which once traced out possibly the biggest private house in 15th-century Britain, Minster Lovell, the romantic ruins of which can be seen from most points in the garden.

"Jill delegates sitting in the garden to me. I'm good at that," says Sir Peter.

"I never get a chance," says Lady Parker.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Lady Parker's pond, romantic and uneven, attracts ducks

Sir Peter's pond reflects his more formal approach to garden design: geometric, with a fountain at one end, water lilies on the surface and koi carp below

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A peep hole cut in the middle of a bay hedge offers a different view in a small garden

Woodman spare that tree

Instead of clearing out your new garden you could join up the dots, says **Stephen Anderton**

Have fun with a vegetable bed of runner beans, cabbage, fennel, kale and courgettes

When you move into a new garden it is all to easy to want to remove randomly placed trees and shrubs, to make some *open space and give the* garden a breather. And it is all too easy to regret it later. Sometimes they can be extremely useful.

One of the recognised ways of making a small garden feel larger is to break it up into even smaller units, to make a sequence of corners and arbours full of surprises and with different characters.

Sometimes those lonely shrubs or unnecessary trees cast out on a sea of lawn can be linked together to make the bones of new internal divisions in the garden. Think about it before you chop.

Try making a sketch of the garden *and* seeing *how the* shrubs or trees *might* be linked together. Think of it as a giant join-up-the-dots game, where you must make as many alternative shapes as possible. Usually something appealing will emerge.

You *might*, for instance, want to make a secret corridor down one side of the garden for growing vegetables. One small tree out in the lawn might mark the corner of this, its canopy hiding the length of the corridor from the house. You could separate the corridor from the rest of the garden with a long line of runner *beans, back to back with a row* of some tall herbaceous plant. Rudbeckia 'Herbstsonne' makes a full-leaved column to 6ft-7ft, with lemon-yellow flowers in late summer. It grows like a rocket, both upwards and at the root, so if you bought, say, four plants *you could divide them into 20* the next autumn and have a complete screen of plants by the following year.

You could join up the dots with trellis fixed to posts instead, covering it with honeysuckle, clematis and sweet peas. For an evergreen screen you could run the trellis through with a large-leaved ivy, like *Hedera colchica* or its cheerful yellow-variegated variant 'Sulphur Heart'. It always warms the heart, even on a cold winter's day.

If there is a lonely young tree out on the lawn, why not give it a partner and make an entrance of it, pillars leading *to a grass path flanked by* a pair of new parallel borders? Don't worry that the trees are not the official distance apart. They will not be large open-crowned specimens in a small garden anyway, and it is better to think of trees as temporary architecture.

Use them for instant height and prune them hard to keep them to scale. They need not be there for ever. This is the beauty of a garden broken into many little units — the odd tree can come and go and never be noticed when it goes because you are not making an overall picture but a series *of intimate spaces*.

You may have a deep shrubbery which you want to scrap in favour of space for more detailed planting. A hellebore garden, or somewhere to grow lots of special primroses and dogtooth violets.

It could be a lot of work to clear the shrubbery and there may be no need. Consider saving the biggest or the most interesting of the shrubs, and making a *winding path of bark chips* among them. . If you really needed to maximise the growing space, then stepping stones would give you even more soil to plant.

Use the join-the-dots technique again and consider which shrubs you might save to make an interesting meander from A to B and whether the path would fork to give you a side exit as well as one at the far end. Do you want a more open centre to the shrubbery, a little glade and to thicken the planting around the outsides, so that the whole area is enclosed?

The marvellous thing about small enclosures such as this is that anything above eye-height will give you privacy from what lies on the other side. It is an idea you can play with, by cutting a peep hole in a hedge, or making a mini-vista to be seen through the fork of a tree. Offer a glimpse through the side of a rose-smothered arbour with a table and seats, *from a winding* path which runs behind it; or a Shakespearean "chink" in a wall like a garden confessional.

Tall: Rudbeckia Herbstsonne

You may like the idea of dividing the garden into intimate spaces, but may think the existing trees are too many and too big. Some species you can reduce ruthlessly just by pruning, and you need not lose that height altogether. More to the point, you can then keep the old trunks, which always *add dignity and a sense of* passing time to a garden. Willows, limes, ash, planes and even oaks can be pollarded, cutting the crown back in winter to make a new head on the existing trunk. Two to avoid are cherries and laburnums, which hate this treatment. Old hollies can be reduced by March pruning to narrow columns, or even to *large formal lollipops*, should that serve your purpose. Dreary, moth-eaten old yews can be reduced to a totem pole, from which will spring new branches. These can be grown on to make a manageable tree, or turned into topiary if you prefer. Holly and yew can be cut off at ground level and will quickly make manageable bushes again. Saving them alive and making use of existing trees can be the fastest and easiest *way to a full and* compartmented garden.

■ Earth up celery and leeks to blanch them, and winter brassicas for stability. Keep celery well watered, as the tenderest celery is always the fastest grown.

■ Early pears will be ready to pick now. Watch all varieties and pick as *and when ready*.

■ Keep ponds free of the worst leaf fall from trees. See that alpines and cushion plants are not smothered by fallen leaves, and watch for slugs taking advantage of their cover to eat into stems and crowns.

■ Aerate compacted lawns by machine, or with a fork in smaller areas. Complete any necessary turf repairs while the ground is still warm and the grass is growing. Vertical dips in lawn edges can produce an edge which looks as *though it is waving in and out*. To give a straighter effect, make parallel spade cuts at right angles to the edge and peel back the turf with a spade in strips. Insert fresh soil below and roll back the turf to lie at a constant level. The edge can then be recut. Humps in the grass can be taken out in a similar way by removing soil below the turf.

■ Fallen leaves should not be allowed to lie for long on the lawn, especially if it is newly-seeded grass, or fungal infections can cause *patches to die out. In dry weather*, however, a light scattering of leaves does no harm at all.

■ Finish dividing herbaceous plants now and complete any of the remainder in the spring. An exception to this rule are the aconitums (monkshoods) which sometimes come into leaf before Christmas and will then need dividing early, even though they flower late. *Aconitum carmichaelii* can be in full flower, like a royal blue delphinium, in October. Divide *it as soon as flowering is over*.

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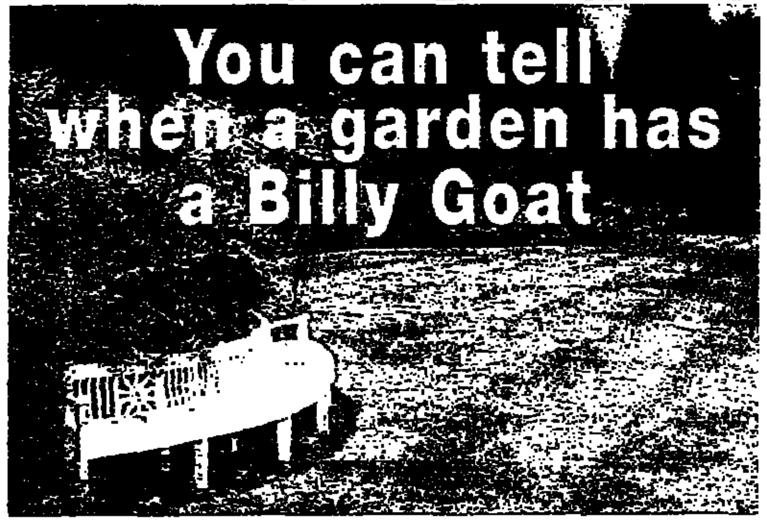
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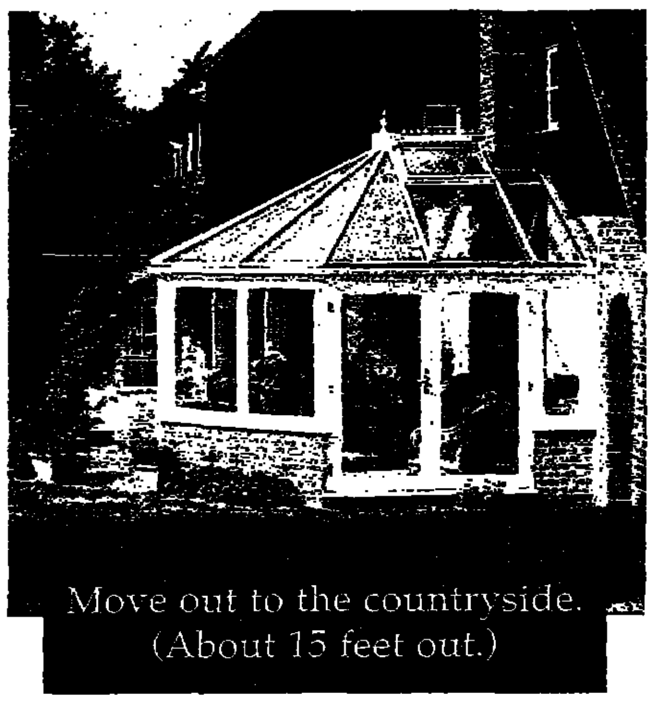
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Devolution puts owners in real state

Prime Scottish property could be blighted by tough parliamentary tax-raising, says

Tom Rowland

MIKE WILKINSON

Michael and Sheila Mackintosh outside the country house near Auchterarder in Perthshire that they are glad to sell, fearing the advent of swingeing property taxes

Michael Mackintosh and his wife Sheila bought their pretty country house near Auchterarder in Perthshire ten years ago. Now it is for sale, and Mr Mackintosh says that he will be glad when he is shot of it.

Owning even moderately expensive houses in rural Scotland could become markedly more costly in the aftermath of the devolution vote. "I voted in favour of a Scottish parliament but against giving it tax-raising powers," he says.

Now he is concerned at the prospect of an Edinburgh-based parliament introducing a swingeing property tax that could both destabilise the market and frighten away outside investors.

The couple are fortunate; he is an executive in the water industry and is moving to a new address in Scotland for professional reasons, but he is also brave because he is prepared to voice openly fears that many vendors of far more extensive holdings will only mutter privately.

What will happen if extremist politicians take power in Edinburgh and attempt to fund policies through a heavy property tax? What will be the effect on sporting estates of the new Scottish parliament's influence on the right to roam and have access to land?

John Brown, director of the agent DTZ Debenham Thorpe, who is selling the house at an asking price of £245,000, is forthright: "Never before has a country decided it wants to pay more tax," he says.

Not recently, anyhow. But tax rises tend to look more appealing to electorates when somebody else is in line to pay, and in Scotland, where land-holding in many areas is still concentrated in a few hands and there is a wide perception of many absentee foreigners being involved, rural land and grand houses look a soft target.

Houses like the one the Mackintoshes are selling could get caught in the crossfire. They pay council tax of about £1,300 a year. In much of Scotland the figures are already higher than for comparable places in England, and if the Exchequer grants are reduced these figures will be set for hikes even before any new tax is levied.

"Many Scottish politicians do not like the way we currently manage the big sporting estates and would like to see them split up and farmed intensively," said Guy Galbraith, of agents Savills in Edinburgh.

Proposed new legislation guaranteeing the public a right of access will also have a dramatic impact on big estates, he argues: "At the moment there is an understanding between landowners and ramblers, and the law of trespass is rarely exercised. A right to roam will alter the balance," he said.

Savills has already had a potential buyer questioning the wisdom of proceeding with a major purchase because of worries over devolution. Land ownership remains a politically contentious issue in Scotland. The ease with which passions are aroused is well illustrated by the phenomenal support and media attention given to the campaign by the 63 residents on Eigg to raise £1.5 million to buy their island earlier this year.

As Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburgh and chairman of the Lord-Lieutenants Association, the Duke of Buccleuch refrains from political comment. However, he is Scotland's largest private landowner with an estate of 261,600 acres in the lowlands between Edinburgh and Dumfries. Drumlanrig, one of the five estates, is set in the valley of the river Nith and is the biggest single block of estate land owned in the UK.

Duke of Buccleuch: largest private owner

"What I suppose people are concerned about is that the Scottish parliament will have powers over land use and access," says Mark Gibson of Brodies, an Edinburgh-based solicitor currently selling the 40,000-acre Glenfeshie estate in Highland.

The Atholl estate around Blair Atholl comes complete with a whitewashed, turreted castle and covers 148,000 acres. It is owned by the Duke of Atholl, Sarah Troughton and the Blair Trust. The Earl of Seafield and his son Viscount Reidhaven have 101,000 acres stretching from the centre of Aviemore through Grantown-on-Spey. The Duke of Westminster owns 95,000 acres in Scotland, much in Sutherland. Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel is not far behind with 76,000 acres. He is the 26th Lochiel to own the vast lands of moor and mountain west of Loch Lochy and the Great Glen. The compact, square castle of Achnacarry stands close to the fast-running river Arkaig.

All of these properties are likely to be affected by a Scottish parliament. "Some people are worried that they might re-introduce a sporting tax whereby owners pay so much per stag shot, or salmon caught and so on," says Mr Galbraith.

Foreign owners may also be disenchanted by the latest political developments. Overseas, mainly Dutch, buyers came over with a rash of land speculation in the 1970s. In the past few years, the Danes have moved in heavily, investing alongside Scottish companies.

Greentop Lands and Estates, the Scottish-registered branch of a Liechtenstein company, is a good example of the trend. According to Andy Wightman, a new edition of whose book *Who owns Scotland* was published this year, it owns 12 properties in Scotland amounting to around 30,000 acres and ranging from the 9,650-acre Claonaig estate in Argyll to farms of just a few hundred acres.

Auslan Cramb, in his book *Who Owns Scotland Now?*, articulates the growing groundswell of opinion in Scotland that the land-ownership system will have to be reformed if local communities are to benefit from the land around them and if the vast, desolate, loss-making estates are to achieve their environmental, biological and economic potential.

Whether such reforms will take the shape of tax increases, as Mr and Mrs Mackintosh fear, or new rules and regulations, will depend on the new Edinburgh parliament. Either way the future of Scotland's vast estates is uncertain.

Anyone for a happy landing?

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FIRST it was the broom cupboard, now it is the landing. Two tiny flats, each squeezed on to one of the landings of a staircase in a London house, have been put up for sale at asking prices of £62,000 each for a 56-year lease.

The amount of space on offer is almost identical to the pokey Bayswater broom cupboard sold last week for £42,500, but this is an even crazier option because, camped on a landing, you must endure the constant noise of people tramping past

The pair are in a period house in Thurloe Square in London's South Kensington and the new owners will get a single room, 10ft 5in by 8ft 6in, with a cupboard-kitchenette levered into one side.

TOM ROWLAND

● *Agents: Plaza estates (0171-581 7646).*

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Pueblo Evita Club	Costa Del Sol	June	1	High	6	1895
Barratt Dona Lola	Costa Del Sol	February	1	Mid	4	1195
CLC Marina Del Sol	Costa Del Sol	May/Oct	3	High	6	1395
Crown Resort Delta Mar	Costa Del Sol	Mar/Apr	2	High	6	999
Barratt Leta Playa	Costa Del Sol	Xmas	1	High	8	3335
Los Amigos Beach Club	Costa Del Sol	Float	3	High	6	2450
Wimpey Los Claveles	Tenerife	September	1	High	4	2250
Lagus De Fanabe	Tenerife	January	1	High	4	1395
Club La Paz	Tenerife	September	1	High	8	3300
Royal Tenerife Country Club	Tenerife	Jul/Nov	3	High	4	2295
Wimpey El Marques	Tenerife	May	2	High	4	1995
Royal Sunset Beach Club	Tenerife	Jan/Jul	2	High	4	2100
Royal Sunset Beach Club	Tenerife	Jun	2	High	4	2100
Sunset Bay Club	Tenerife	April	2	High	8	2350
Club Olympus	Tenerife	Aug/Dec	2	High	4	1495
Hollywood Mirage	Tenerife	Feb/Mar/Nov	5	High	4	2800
Club Tenerife	Tenerife	September	2	High	6	1495
Club Vista Serena	Gran Canaria	Jan/May/Mar	4	High	4	1495
Club Cala Blanca	Gran Canaria	Easter	2	High	6	2650
Club Vistaflor	Gran Canaria	Jul/Dec	4	High	4	1395
Wimpey Las Brisas	Lanzarote	April	2	High	4	2195
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	Aug/Sep	4	High	8	3250
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	Xmas/Nyr	2	High	8	3750
Club La Santa Sport	Lanzarote	Jun/Jul	2	High	4	1595
Club Praia Da Oura	Algarve	May/Oct	3	High	4	1499
Blue Trees Resort	Orlando	April	2	High	4	2250
Spas at Resort World	Orlando	November	1	High	8	1995
Westgate Vacation Villas	Orlando	October	1	High	6	1995
Barratt Loch Rannoch	Scotland	September	1	High	8	3850
Woodford Bridge C.C	Devon	Float	1	High	4	1695
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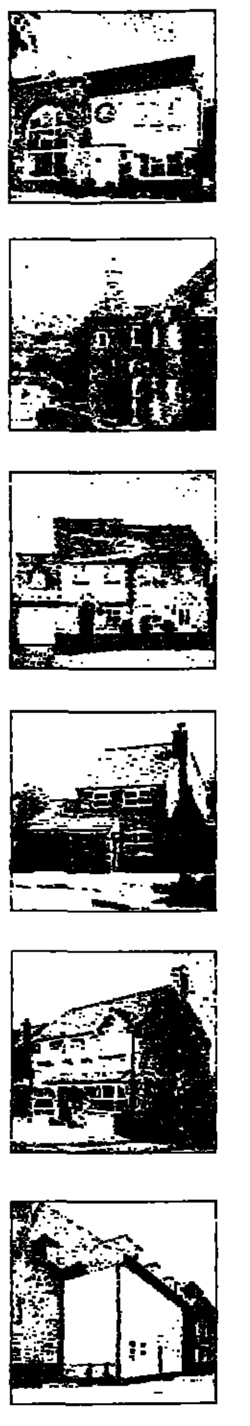

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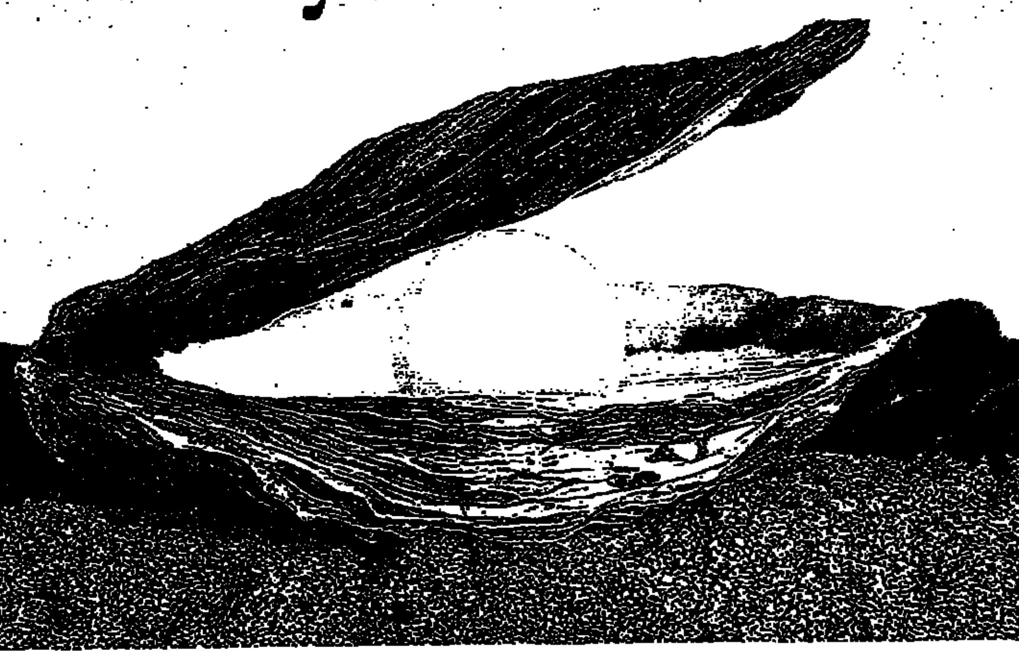

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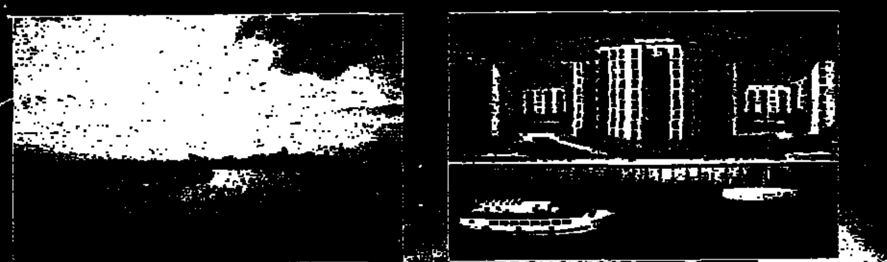

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Exposed beams, lots of space and plenty of history make medieval hall houses desirable places to live. **Chris Webb** reports

Living in the grand manor

The fate of a grand manor house in Harrow rests on the outcome of a £2 million Heritage Lottery Fund bid, due to be announced this month.

Headstone Manor, now owned by the London Borough of Harrow, was first recorded in 1300, and in 1344 it was granted to John Stratford, Archbishop of Canterbury, who built a grand medieval hall house. Precisely how grand has only just been discovered by English Heritage, which recently carried out some digs which showed that the hall had four bays rather than the two bays previously known.

The house has been added to and subtracted from over the centuries, and a grant will enable the local authority, Harrow Heritage Trust, and Harrow Arts Council, the joint applicants, to organise an authentic restoration.

They hope the work will be finished for the millennium, when it will become a heritage centre, set in restored topiary and herb garden surrounded by a water-filled moat.

Thousands of hall houses more than 500 years old survive throughout the country, not as museums but as homes. Most are half-timbered, and they are rivalling the Georgian rectory in popularity with house buyers, according to Richard Page, of John D. Wood. The company has just sold Crown House at Cowden, Kent, a late medieval hall house with Jacobean and *Queen Anne additions. The* £400,000 house has exposed timbers, including a decorated 15th-century crown post in the roof.

Mr Page says: "These houses are always in demand. They are often Grade II-listed, are in good locations, and their history makes them of immediate interest. They often divide into four bedrooms and three bathrooms to make comfortable homes."

Another example being marketed by the company is Pound Farm at Blackham, Kent, a £395,000 four-bedroom hall house with a drawing room, dining room and study downstairs. Like Headstone, the house, which has 20 acres of land, was altered over the years so that it now has a gabled porch and is tile hung, with a brick elevation.

Mr Page says: "Hall houses are a particular feature of Kent, Sussex and Surrey and usually jetty out at first-floor level. I was told the weight of the roof bears down on the joists that support the jetty, and that heavy oak furniture counter-balanced this weight. You now see modern versions which can cost more than the real thing."

From Anglo-Saxon times to the 16th century, many houses had an open hall of one storey, built with either carved timbers or a box frame made from green oak or elm, the walls being filled in with wattle and daub.

At first, the timbers were just set into the earth, which encouraged rot, but from the 1300s they were stood on stone pads to increase their lifespan. A fire would be lit on a hearth of stone slabs laid in the middle of the hall, and provided the only heating in the building, the smoke being left simply to seep through the roof. The hall was used for formal business, entertaining and dining — a high table would be placed here. At one end was an enclosed area to which the householder would withdraw for privacy. This area, the solar end, often had an upper floor. At the other end (the lower end) were the services — a buttery, pantry or brewery and perhaps a kitchen — and a door in the side wall, usually with another doorway opposite. There is speculation that this enabled people to enter from the leeward side of the house, a good move to minimise the choking effect of wood smoke.

The main differences between hall houses built for a lowly peasant farmer and for a lord of the manor are in decoration and scale. They could be small — just 15ft by 12ft, while grander, later houses had a whole wing at the solar end set at right angles to the hall.

Matthew Slocombe, of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, says: "Headstone Manor has a very rare example of a full-height hall. But we would not want to strip out the floors in hall houses because they are a valid part of the buildings' history and development. Anything pre-1550 that is not a town house stands a good chance of being a hall house."

There is no doubt that Throckmorton Court, near Pershore, Worcestershire, is the real thing: it was described by Pevsner in his *Buildings of England* as: "A splendid, timber-framed late medieval hall and solar of circa 1500." Today the house still has its decorative trefoil timbering, although it has been modernised and now offers four bedrooms with their own bathrooms, a staff flat and a granny annexe. There are 246 acres, two moats and an indoor swimming pool. There are also stables, two cottages and a tithe barn. Knight Frank is offering the property at a guide price of £1.25 million.

Cross Farm, Kidmore End, near Reading, is a Grade II-listed, double-ended hall house dating from the later 15th century. It has a great hall with a queen post roof, and even a priest hole, but has been adapted to provide seven bedrooms and four bathrooms. It has just sold with Savills at £950,000.

The house has wooden mullion windows, a heated pool, a billiard room, music room and a wine store, as well as five reception rooms, six bedrooms, outbuildings and three acres of gardens.

Humberts sold the Grade II-listed Downstreet Farmhouse, at Piltdown, Sussex, the first day it went on the market. A potted history of the house has been written by a local historian.

The house, which had a guide price of £550,000, dates from 1295, when it was on the medieval route from Lewes to London. It was timber-framed then but was later faced with brick.

Now the company is marketing a splendid timber-framed hall house just a stone's throw away, on the same road. Little Shortbridge dates from around 1500, but has been restored by the present owners to provide a luxurious four-five-bedroom home in 14 acres that include tennis courts, a billiard room, garaging and a vegetable garden and has a guide price of £650,000.

Stephen Rickards, of Sevenoaks, Kent, a building surveyor who specialises in conservation, says most of the hall houses he has surveyed date from the 14th century.

"Hall houses pre-dated putting floors right across the building partly because smoke had to go somewhere, and one of the things I look for in a survey is smoke blackening of the roof timbers.

"Maintaining these houses is very important. It's best to do a little often, replacing loose roof tiles, clearing gutters, and keeping ivy out. Central heating, if used for anything more than background heating, can damage the timbers, but there are usually plenty of fireplaces with which to heat rooms."

● *John D. Wood: 01342 326326.*
Knight Frank: 01905 723438 ·
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ADRIAN SHERRATT

Ian Hurley outside the hall house in Cowden, Kent, which he converted from a pub into a family home. Right, the medieval crown post that supports the roof

HOOKED ON HISTORY

ACTOR Ian Hurley has just sold his wonderful medieval hall house in Cowden, Kent — and has bought another one across the road.

John D. Wood has just sold the £400,000 house, which Hurley converted from a pub into a home for his wife, Teresa, a solicitor, and three young children.

Hurley bought the house four years ago and says the best thing about the eight-bedroomed house, which is thought to date from 1480, with Queen Anne and Jacobean additions, is its historic atmosphere, and now he is hooked on it.

"Restoration has become an interest," he says. "It's very satisfying. We found a crown post in the roof, which is octagonal and decorated. This may have been a manor house for a while — it had a Jacobean hallway with moulded tie beams. It would have been quite prestigious.

"We did a major restoration here. We stripped back the walls, cleaned the rafters and replastered using sand and lime plastering, and we exposed a Jacobean ceiling. Almost as soon as we moved in here, we had a conservation officer here who searched our skip! I love the winters in these houses when you can light the big fire in the inglenook and burn logs with different smells — apple, oak and ash.

"The wattle and daub that fills in between the oak frame is not good insulation, but central heating can make the house cosy, and anyway we feel the cold is quite healthy.

The five-bedroomed house he has bought is smaller, with no extensions, and will also need complete refurbishment. "It's an aesthetic thing that I enjoy," says Hurley.

"It's lovely to uncover an inglenook fireplace and perhaps an iron fireback behind an ugly Fifties fireplace.

"You can sit there and work out why a door is there, and that the ceilings are low because the first floor was added to the existing open hall.

"I believe the people who built these houses were very colourful, and I like to imagine how they used to live communally in the open hall."

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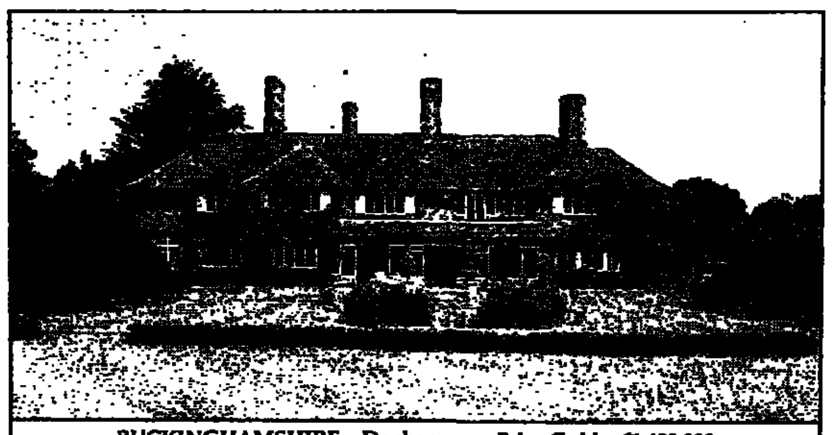

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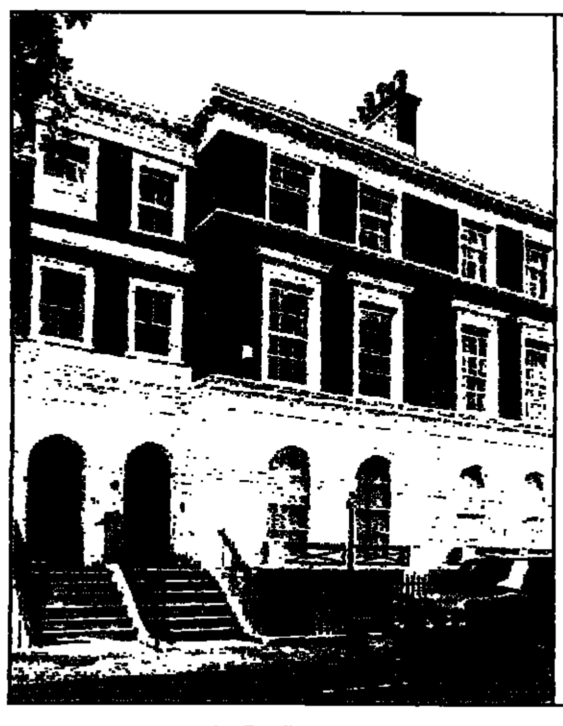

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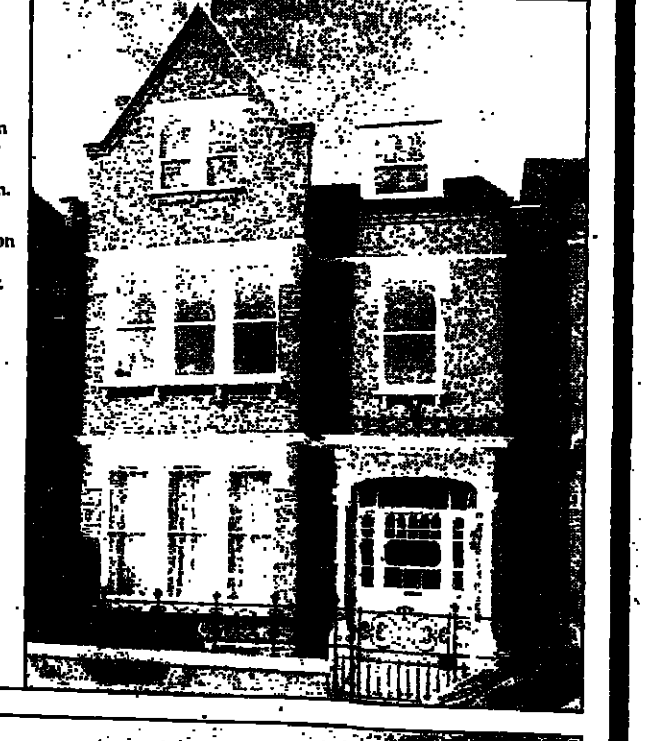

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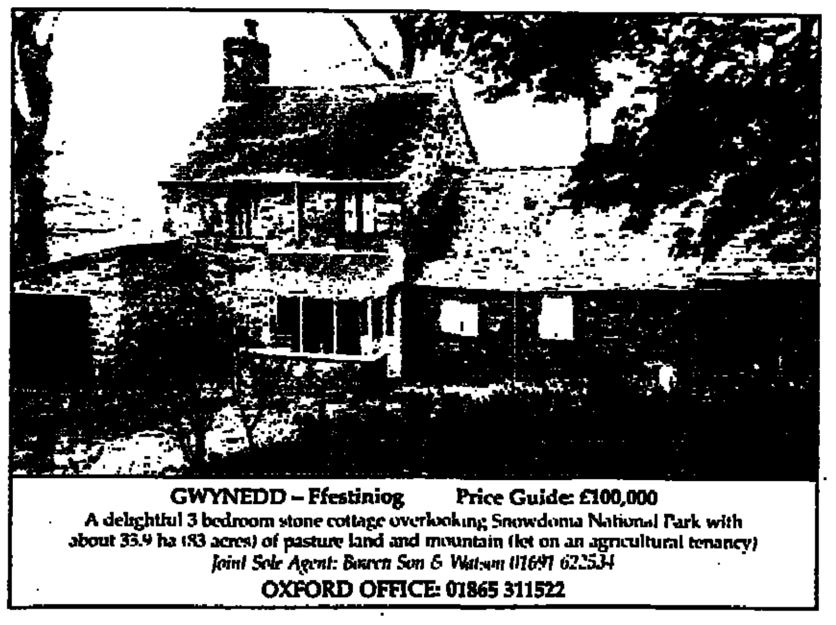

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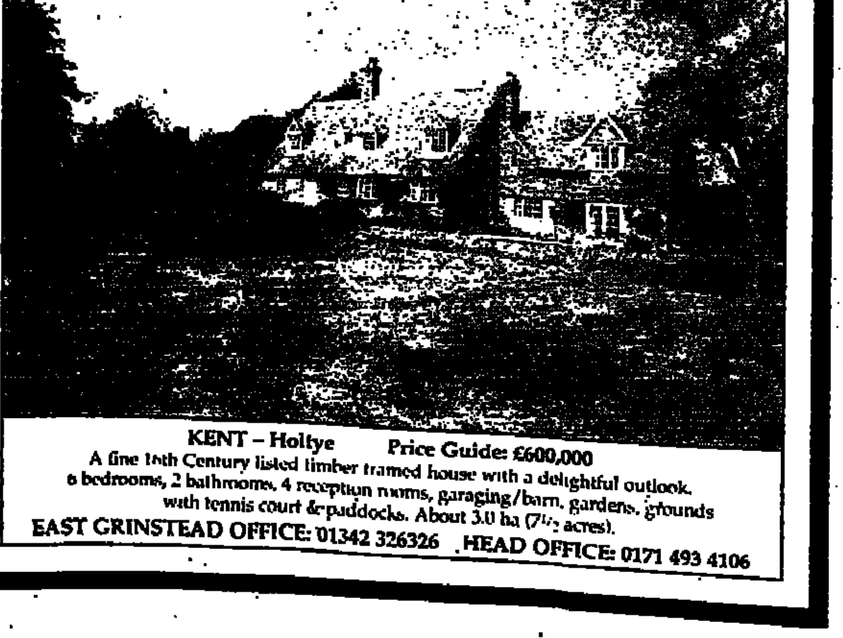

KENT – Holtye Price Guide: £600,000
A fine 16th Century listed timber framed house with a delightful outlook. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, garaging/barn, gardens, grounds with tennis court & paddocks. About 3.0 ha (7½ acres).
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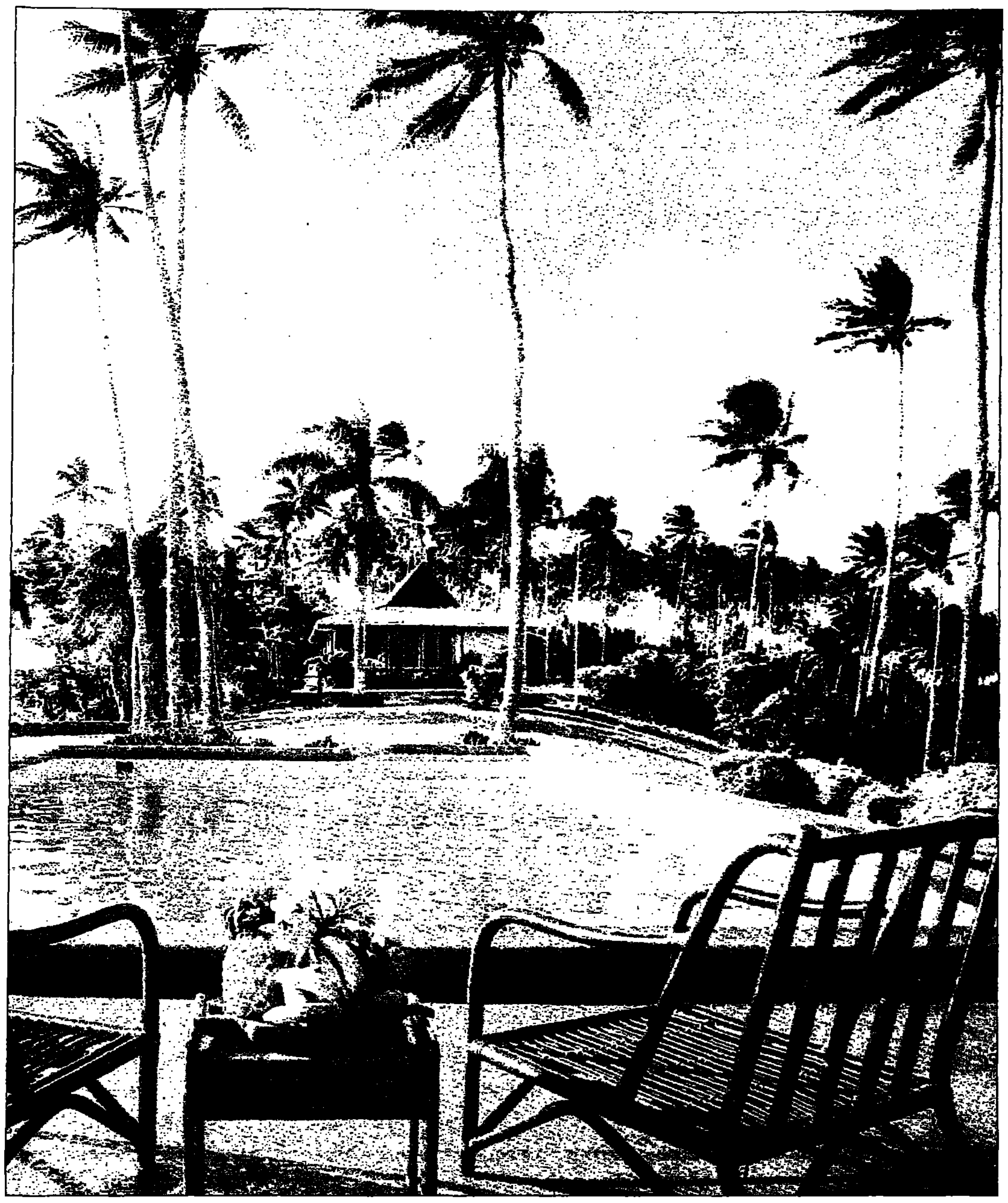
هكذا من الأصل

The ultimate status symbol

Rich men at play: Robert Maxwell with Forbes

Looking for a place in the sun? For $10 million, Malcolm Forbes's island could be all yours, writes

Alex O'Connell



You don't have to wear a Trotsky donkey jacket or sleep with *Das Kapital* under your pillow to feel uncomfortable when a man buys an island for his own private fancy, complete with indigenous population. Sadly, the late Malcolm Forbes, staunch Republican, chairman and editor-in-chief of *Forbes*, the respected US business magazine, didn't suffer from such po-faced liberalism.

When Forbes bought the 3,000-acre Fijian island of Laucala in 1972, he was looking for a unique party venue, rather than just another family retreat. Loved and loathed for his Gatsbyesque generosity, unusual hobbies (he nearly killed himself ballooning over the Atlantic) and crude status symbols, he once spent millions on a party in Tangiers.

At the time of purchase, he already had a ranch in Colorado, an estate in New Jersey, a Wren-designed house in London, a château in France (with a balloon museum) and a palace in Morocco (home to the world's largest collection of toy soldiers). But Forbes was interested in acquiring a kingdom that had what he called the "idyllic factor", and trawled the islands of the South Pacific for more than three years in order to find the virgin beaches and green seas of Eighties Martini ads.

Forbes, reputedly bi-sexual with an obsessive motorbike fetish (he owned more than 70 and gave his friend Elizabeth Taylor one called *Purple Passion*), died in 1990. This week his self-sufficient tropical paradise is going on the market for $10 million (£6.35 million).

Because Laucala is situated only 190 miles from Nadi, site of Fiji's international airport and 135 miles from Suva, the capital, those who grow weary of the sunshine and warm waters can fly back to rejoin the outside world with minimum fuss.

Although there are more than 844 islands and islets in the archipelago (only 100 are inhabited), Laucala is special because it has running water, electricity and a huge potential for tourism.

The island was appealing enough for William Bligh, the hapless captain of the *Bounty*, to stop and take note of its precise location, although he never made it on to the beach.

The scenery is everything you would expect of the hyperbolic world that travel brochures love to call Paradise. There are stunning coral reefs, shell-coated beaches and enough coconuts to make a lifetime's supply of Bounty bars.

The mountainous interior is rugged and beautiful with rainforests, exotic birds, top-heavy mango trees and the sort of giant ferns usually restricted to the pages of dinosaur books.

Forbes's home is situated at the highest point. Squinting down on his kingdom, he could keep his chests of gold under surveillance and pre-empt attacks by modern-day pirates. The house itself is not extravagant, although a little self-consciously simple.

There is a living room, terrace, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a swimming pool at the front. Seven holiday homes with woven walls and cathedral thatched roofs, (known locally as *bures*) nestle under the palms and look out to sea. Perfect accommodation for noisy guests.

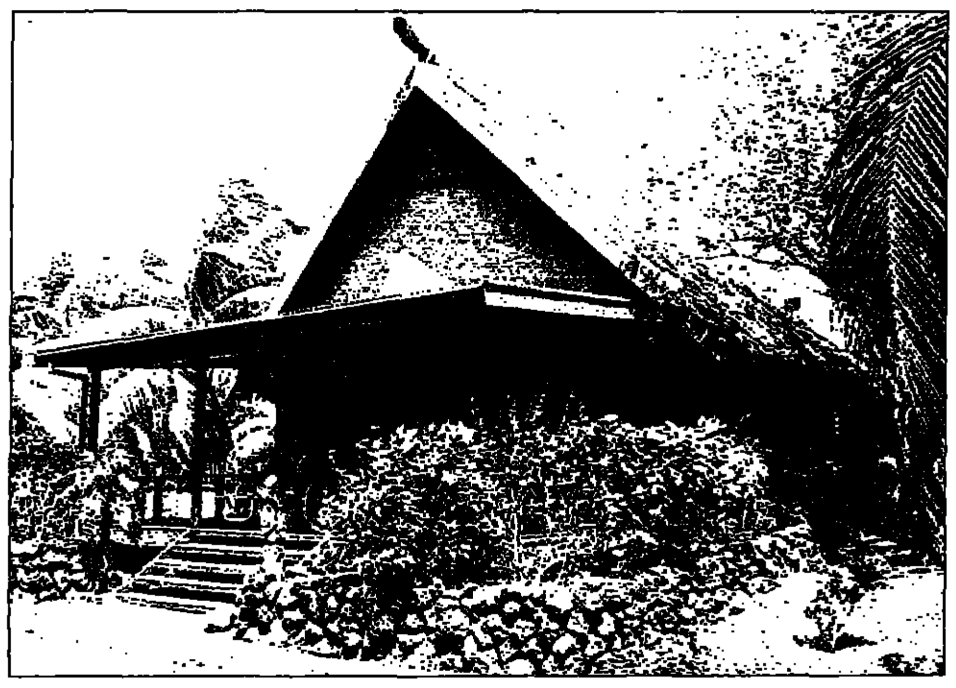
The Plantation House sits on the edge of the hill. Built in 1926, it is a wood-framed building with a wide veranda, high ceilings and rattan furniture. Forbes, known to both friends and employees as The Boss, held extravagant dinners there for visiting disciples. The island janitor will shack up in the Manager's House, which has two bedrooms, a veranda and sea views.

Every empire needs education, religion and snacks; happily there is a school, white-framed church and general store, built by Forbes.

The village itself is home to Fijians who work on the island, and there are roughly 220 of them. A Canadian couple presently manage the island and maintain tourist activities with the help of 55 locals.

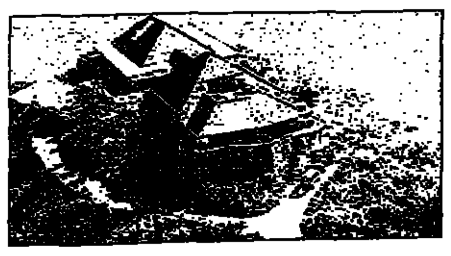
According to the brochure, they are "friendly people", known for their enthusiastic greeting of "Bula!". It further reassures the nervous potential buyer: "The islands are free of malaria . . . [there are] no dangerous land animals or crocodiles . . . Enjoy nature without risk."

Agents: Knight Frank: 0171-629 8171



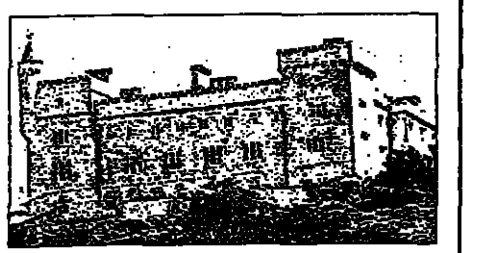
Island idyll: Laucala, the Fijian hideaway. The late Malcolm Forbes had his own home built high in the mountains. But his party guests could luxuriate in the seven extravagantly appointed holiday homes known as *bures* (above and left)

DREAM ISLANDS



RICHARD BRANSON owns the paradise island of Necker (left), one of the Virgin islands in the Caribbean. He bought the formerly uninhabited, 74-acre island from Lord Cobham in 1979 for £200,000-£300,000 and had a Bali-styled ten-bedroom house built of Brazilian wood on Devil's Hill. The island, with its own lake, has a freshwater swimming pool on the edge of the hill, a tennis court and a gym.

DAVID AND FREDERICK BARCLAY, owners of *The European* and *The Scotsman* newspapers and The Ritz, bought the lease of the island of Brecqhou (right), one of the Channel Islands, in 1993 for £2.3 million. They built an imposing mock-Gothic castle with a chapel, two indoor swimming pools and an indoor all-weather garden, at a cost of around £27 million. The island also has its own water and electricity supply.



MARLON BRANDO owns the beautiful South Pacific island of Tetiaroa (left), the largest of a chain of undeveloped islands which he bought for £20,000 during the filming of *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1966, and has used as a retreat from the rat-race in Hollywood for himself and his family. The island, which is only accessible by air, now has an airstrip, a six-room schoolhouse, several bungalows, sawmills and the actor's luxurious palm-thatched mansion.

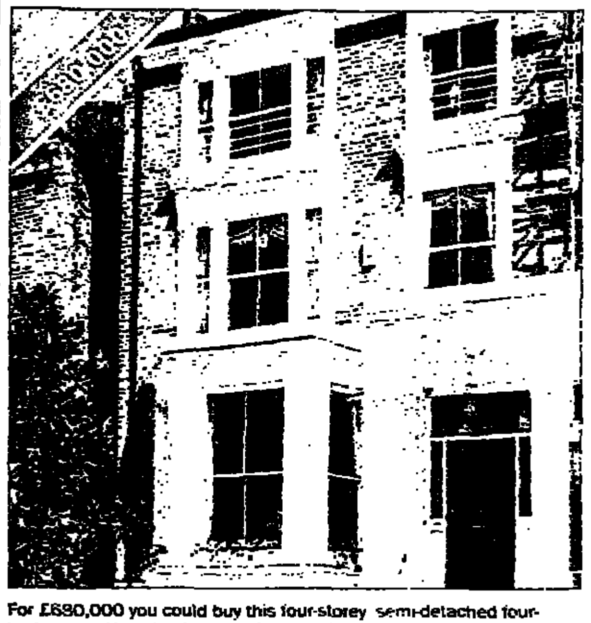
Star guests: Forbes entertained Elizabeth Taylor

HOMESWAP

A SHORTAGE of good property in Clapham – from one-bedroom flats at £85,000 to double-fronted, seven-bedroomed Victorian houses at £1.5 million – coupled with increased demand from city buyers looking for a London pad close to the Tube, has fuelled price rises of 30 per cent in 18 months. Galleried flats in Edwardian school conversions at £315,000 and three and four-bedroom Victorian terraced houses, with large gardens, near Clapham Common, at £600,000 plus, are the most popular, says estate agent Friend & Falcke.

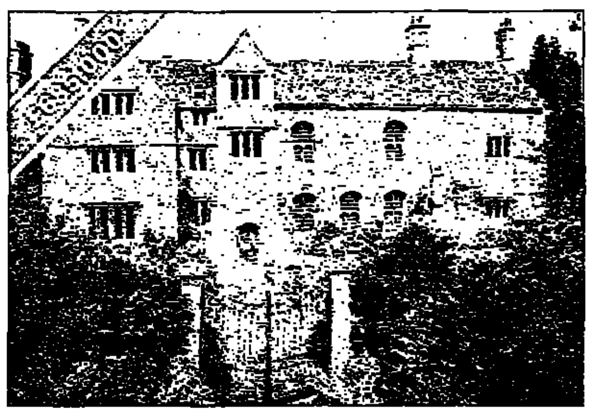
Four to five-bedroom detached houses from £120,000 to £200,000 within commuting distance of Newcastle are in constant demand, says agents Savills. Relocating executives in Newcastle looking for family homes are moving to the countryside around Corbridge and Hexham, 15 miles west of Newcastle, where prices have increased by up to 10 per cent this year. Country houses look cheap, priced from £300,000 for a six-bedroomed Georgian house in five acres.

Country houses in more than five acres of horse paddocks, costing from £350,000 to £650,000, are like gold dust in Northamptonshire. With St Pancras an hour by train from Kettering or 35 minutes from Milton Keynes, the whole area is commutable and highly sought-after. Popular areas include fox-hunting country between Northampton and Market Harborough and west towards Banbury, where prices have gained up to 12 per cent this year, says Quentin Jackson-Stops, of Jackson-Stops & Staff.



For £680,000 you could buy this four-storey semi-detached four-bedroomed Victorian house, with a garden, in The Chase, Clapham Old Town, near Clapham Common underground station (Friend & Falcke, 0171-498 0736).

In the same price range (£695,000) is Southend House, a restored nine-bedroomed Victorian mansion in a four-acre garden at Whitburn, to the east of Newcastle, Tyne & Wear. It comes with a ballroom, snooker room, swimming pool complex and a stable block (Savills, 01904 620731).



A similar sum (£685,000) will buy a manor house fit for a king in Northamptonshire. The 12th-century Grade II*-listed Manor House at Brigstock, in four acres of garden and paddocks, was once owned by King John. It has ten bedrooms, five reception rooms, a separate self-contained two-bedroomed flat and outbuildings (Savills, 01780 766222).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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A VET WRITES

Q **We bought a British Shorthair kitten from a reputable breeder about a year ago. She had been given all her inoculations. About a month after we had her, she developed breathing problems and a discharge from her eyes and nose. We've taken her to the vet countless times. She's had X-rays, blood tests and antibiotics. Now we are told she has a chronic sinusitis which is likely to recur and there's no cure. She enjoys life, eats well and seems healthy except for this catarrh problem. Can anything be done?**

A A number of vets specialise in feline medicine. Ask your vet if he thinks a consultation would help. I think the chances of a complete cure are poor. It appears your kitten was infected with "cat flu" before you bought her, although there may not have been any signs at the time. Vaccination isn't effective, the germs are established and can't be eliminated. You'll be happier if you get a second opinion and it is quite likely that treatment will improve things.

Q **I read in *The Sunday Times* that 65 dogs and 69 cats died in quarantine last year, which is 1.6 per cent of the 8,178 animals imported. I think this is terrible and, in itself, a reason for abolishing quarantine. What's your opinion?**

A The "if only" factor comes in — if only he hadn't had to go into quarantine. But every pet dies one day. Quarantine lasts six months, so 1.6 per cent in half a year is slightly less than one would expect. Rabies has occurred more than once in quarantine in the past 30 years and the "hardly ever happens argument" makes no more sense than scrapping the smoke alarm because the house hasn't caught fire.

Q **Our labrador puppy is nearly six months old. We don't want to breed from her. When will she come into season and when should she be spayed?**

A Her first heat will probably be next February-March. She will be old enough and spring is the natural time for dogs to mate. Ask your vet when he prefers to operate. Some suggest that the bitch has one season first so that she is fully developed. Others feel it is better that the operation is carried out earlier — any time from now onwards. There is nothing wrong with either approach.

JAMES ALLCOCK

The friendliest way to join the rat race

Forget the verminous image and cuddle up to an affectionate rodent, writes **Alistair Riley**

TONY WHITE

Tickling the fancy: the domestic Fancy Rat, affectionate and ideal in small flats, is fast becoming one of Britain's favourite household pets

Rats have always had an image problem. They are seen as filthy, verminous, creepy creatures that steal food, transmit diseases and destroy farmers' livelihoods. The rat population in Britain is soaring — a 1995 national rodent survey concluded that rats now outnumber humans in Britain.

But that is only one type of rat — the one that is high on Rentokil's most wanted list, the subject of the nightmare of Room 101 in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*. A rat by another name — the domestic Fancy Rat — is fast becoming one of Britain's favourite household pets.

The two are as different as chalk and the stuff put in mouse traps. "Domesticated rats are the same species as wild rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) but have entirely different temperaments," says Angela Horn, who keeps 30 rats at her Southeast London home. "They are the perfect affectionate pet and don't carry disease like wild rats. They are ideal for city-dwellers in small flats and working people with irregular hours. Just as long as you play with them and look after them properly before you go out and when you come home.

"They adore companionship. There can be a doglike bond between rats and their owners. They can tell the difference between people and love you once they get to know you.

"They come when I call and jump up on to my body for a kiss and cuddle. A rat I've bred and sold might come up and say hello when I meet it as much as a year later at a rat show. It's very touching."

They also need a few friends to sniff and talk to, otherwise they get bored and lonely. But keep the sexes apart, unless you have a planned breeding programme in mind. Put a male rat among a few females and you will have dozens of extra mouths to feed. A female rat, a doe, can have a litter of up to 20 babies every month after just two months of her expected two-year lifespan.

"Or even earlier — a sort of ratty gymslip mum of five weeks old," says Angela, who is a leading light in the National Fancy Rat Society, which holds its 21st anniversary symposium in London today for the benefit of its 600 members and the rest of the country's growing number of rat-lovers.

One has 150 extremely active rats and another keeps her former rodent companions in the freezer until she can make suitable burial arrangements.

Another doesn't mind if her pets join her in the bath, and a fellow member sums it up by saying: "If there are no rats in heaven, I'm not going."

> 'If there are no rats in heaven, I'm not going'

On show will be varieties ranging from the rare Himalayan, with its white body, red eyes and sepia brown points on nose, ears, feet and tail, to the more common hooded, with its white body with coloured hood covering head and shoulders and extending in a continuous line down the spine to the tail.

Speakers will talk on the history of the Fancy Rat, common ailments and how to treat them, genetics, ratkeeping and showing the Fancy Rat. There are dozens of rat shows around the country annually, where judges place emphasis on health and temperament before considering looks.

On sale will be the society's bi-monthly magazine — called *Pro-Rata*, with small ads ("rat-sitter wanted") and a hatched, matched and dispatched column. Sadly, most of the notices are for dispatched rats, wishing them well in ratty heaven. The society is wired up for the millennium, and has its own web site on the Internet.

Angela Horn and her husband Graham decided to keep rats three years ago when they moved to London and couldn't have large animals.

They started off with Snowie the albino, Patch, a black-and-white hooded, and black Sweep; they have had in total more than 150 rats, though never more than about 30 at a time, and they give away most of the babies. (There is little money to be made in breeding rats. Even a top quality specimen fetches only £8.)

Angela and Graham say it costs about £2 a week to look after a couple of rats, after an initial outlay of £40 for a cage at least 2ft long. They spend £5 weekly on rabbit food, with occasional dog mix, for her 30-strong ratpack, and another £200 to £300 a year on vet fees, mainly on neutering or having tumours removed.

She spends about an hour playing with her pets during the morning feed, and the same again in the evening.

"That's how much I love rats," she says. "And so would anyone else who gets to know them. You'd be surprised how much fun and mischief there is packed into one small furry animal."

Rats enjoy companionship. Angela Horn plays with hers for an hour each morning and evening after their feed

FANCY THAT

- **The National Fancy Rat Society's symposium is at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, today from 10am. Admission: £7.50 children, £15 adults, inclusive of lunch).**
- **For a leaflet on ratkeeping, send a large SAE to Angela Horn, 26 King's Orchard, Eltham, London SE9 5TJ.**
- **NFRS website: http://www.cableol.co.uk/nfrs.**

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Are horse-whisperers taking people for a ride? **Carolyn Henderson** meets the real thing

Walks like a man, thinks like a horse

Richard Maxwell: understanding horses' body language

When the Nicholas Evans novel about a horse whisperer galloped to the top of the best-seller charts, there was a surge of real-life claimants to the title. Some claim to be able to read horses' thoughts, others massage "unhealthy auras" and yet more relate behavioural problems to a horse's past lives.

It is a phenomenon that leaves many vets and experts bemused, amused — and worried that horses might suffer because owners tend to put sensational claims before science and skill.

"The classic one I had was a horse who was presented as being very stiff," says Andy Bathe, equine surgeon at Cambridge University Veterinary Hospital and vet to the British three-day event team.

"The owners said, 'We've had the back man and he didn't do any good. Then we had the horse whisperer and he couldn't help, so we thought we'd better try the vet.' " The horse actually had navicular disease in the front feet, which made it lame.

"I've had two other horses brought to me that horse whisperers said had kidney problems, but the problems turned out to be in the feet. I'm open-minded, but I've yet to be impressed by a horse whisperer."

Classical riding teacher Heather Moffett agrees. "There are a lot of charlatans, and it makes me cross that they are taking people's money. I do believe that there are people who have a healing gift, but there are an awful lot who have simply jumped on the bandwagon. I know one woman who was told that her horse was unhappy because he didn't like his name!"

Trainers who work wonders without claiming psychic powers are now having to fight to distance themselves from mumbo-jumbo. Richard Maxwell is a prime example — a man who thinks like a horse, whose success is rooted in his understanding of the horse's psychology.

By using the horse's body language and working with its instincts, he achieves results that are making conventional trainers take a new look at their approach. He has had every equine horror story you can think of at his Cambridgeshire yard — rearers, bolters, and buckers — but of the 800-plus horses he has dealt with, only a dozen proved impossible to help.

A former member of the Household Cavalry, Maxwell trained with the American horseman Monty Roberts, who broke in a wild mustang for BBC1's *QED* series.

Nigel Davenport, chairman of the National Equine Welfare Council and director of the Blue Cross horse protection scheme, says trainers like Roberts and Maxwell are "the modern way forward". He puts his faith in vets and proven trainers rather than whisperers.

He says: "When someone comes out of nowhere and starts saying strange things, I take it with a pinch of salt.

"It's good to see more compassion in training — but the good horsemen and women have always worked with compassion. There's no point in getting a horse to do things if he's in pain."

Max, as everyone calls Maxwell, winces at the label "horse whisperer" and talks about understanding instinctive behaviour. "People talk as if it's some kind of mystic art that only a few people in the world can do. It's not," he says.

"Of the horses that come here, 98 per cent have physical problems," Max says. His first step is to put these right with the help of dental, manipulative and veterinary specialists. He then tunes into the horse's natural communications system to build trust and respect, until it looks on him as the herd leader. The process, where he shows the horse that staying with him is more comfortable than running away, plays a key part. "You make him accountable for his actions," he explains.

Max says he is never frightened. "The minute fear enters your mind, you have to stop. If you take fear to an animal which is already frightened, you add to it. Fear travels through your muscle tone and the way you move. It probably changes the way you smell, too. Horses have a good sense of smell and an incredible sense of movement and direction — if you move in a frightened way, they'll pick it up."

● *Richard Maxwell can be contacted on 01223 830886. He is fully booked for the next three months, but does demonstrations throughout the country. Details on 01202 849131.*

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A sudden flood from a hot-water hose and a hunt for the stopcock can dramatically destroy your confidence in the family home

Building up to a nervous breakdown

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

It is 7.45am on Friday and I am moving about in what I hope is a calm yet purposeful manner ("Never run," a soldier of my acquaintance once advised me, "it only panics the men"), trying to put a dent in our as-yet-unblemished record of last child delivered to classroom by bursting-lunged mother. *This* morning, I say to Alexander, as I have every morning for the past two weeks, we are *definitely* going to get to school on time.

Accordingly, we have risen with the dawn, eaten our toast and Marmite and enjoyed a small amount of civilised conversation: "Who is *my* favourite character in *Star Wars*?" Alexander wants to know. I refrain from saying Jabba the Hut, which is the truth, and plump for Han Solo, before realising that I can hardly answer, "because I quite fancy Harrison Ford", to the next question which is, of course, "Why?"

I have issued the child with his school uniform, together with a detailed description of what the little boy-eating monster who lives at the bottom of the knot hole in my bedroom floor will do to him if it isn't on, the right way round, yes, all of it, by the time I come back upstairs

... And indeed I am just about to walk sedately back up the stairs, get dressed, put my eyeliner on and set off for school in a quiet and orderly fashion when I hear the sound of running water.

Have I left a tap on in the bathroom? I have not. In the kitchen? Nope. But these are the only two places in the house from which water might run, so what is with this noise? It is coming from the region of the boiler. More than that I cannot tell, on account of the fact that the house is done up in a style of Shakeresque minimalism that was the last word in chic when we bought it. The fridge, the boiler, the cupboards, the shower — all are clad in a seamless expanse of white tongue-and-groove boarding. And behind it, invisible but sinisterly audible, water is flowing. As I stand gaping in the kitchen, a trickle emerges from the cupboard under the sink and forms a puddle on the floor. From it, a small cloud of vapour rises.

I am transfixed. My house is having a haemorrhage. Its steaming lifeblood is pouring all over my kitchen floor. Worse, the building that I have always felt was my protector, the only fixed point in my rather turbulent life, has turned against me and is dying before my eyes.

Oh really, I say to myself. Get a grip. Where is the stopcock? How do *I* know where the stopcock is? Do *you* know where the stopcock is? Well, yes, I expect you, dear reader, know exactly where it is, and could put your hand upon it any time you felt inclined. But out here in girly-land, where our lists of Important Things To Do begin with "1. Ask Rachel whether Rouge Noir nail varnish now too hopelessly passe for words" and end with "26. Make Will", Find How To Turn Water Off At the Mains is right down there with Fill In Tax Form and Clear Out Kitchen Cupboard.

And now it is 8.30 and if we do not leave the house this minute we shall be late yet again and Alexander's Milk Monitor's stripes will be publicly torn off and it will be all my fault.

The flood advances another half-inch towards me. I turn on the hot tap, rather hopelessly, and say to Alexander in an I Am On Top Of This Situation sort of voice that it will be all sorted out by the time he gets home, *promise*. ("Don't worry, mum," he says brightly, "I'll mend it for you when I get back." At this rate, he may very well have to.)

Back from the school run, I open the front door and find that the hot-water lake has now proceeded as far as the dining-room floorboards, artistically stripped only weeks ago by Darren the Utterly Reliable Builder. Suddenly I recall that the man who did the structural survey made some remark about a stopcock. This is the first useful thought I have had all morning. I splash to the cupboard where the survey is filed, and turn to the page marked Plumbing.

"The mains stopcock is concealed without the tongue-and-groove housing to the lavatory cistern," says the report. "We recommend that access be provided as a matter of urgency." Oh, great. Still, it is a start. Now, where is the torch? It is not in the torch cupboard. Last time I saw it, it was fixed to the front of the spacecraft in which Alexander was flying to the aid of the universe. Armed with the only means of illumination I can find — Alexander's Thomas the Tank Engine flashlight — I wade to the bathroom and, lying prostrate on the floor, apply the flashlight to a minute aperture next to the U-bend. At first, all I can see is Thomas's imbecile grin, projected on to the brickwork opposite me. But then the gleam of a little metal tap detaches itself. I stuff my hand into the hole and turn. The sound of running water stops.

Well, that's it, really. An impassive man came and sorted it all out ("Got a hole in your hot-water hose, love"). He had to jemmy the sink out with a crowbar first, mind you. I mopped up the lake and it was, as promised, all back to normal by the time Alexander got home.

Except that it *isn't* quite back to normal. I used to love that house like a friend but now, as I wander around it, I keep noticing things that are wrong — cracks in the wall, flaking paintwork, a nasty patch of damp festering in a beam, ominous creaks and groans at the dead of night. When we moved in, it was fashionably distressed. Now it feels more like a building on the verge of a nervous breakdown. And somehow, I don't trust it quite the way I used to.

PHOTOFUSION

Third Agers: There is active life after the age of 65

Grandpa, what do you get up to all day?

Forget crochet and croquet: grandparents are worrying their children, says

Geraldine Bedell

REUTERS

Glamorous grandfather: Linford Christie, now a venerable 37, an Olympic sprinter — and also a grandparent

Mick Jagger: A grandfather — and still rocking at 54

CAPITAL PICTURES

Nanette Newman: Actress, grandmother and only 58

When people found themselves exhausted by life at the age of 45, grandparents used to conform to consoling stereotypes. Grannies permed their hair into tight grey curls and took up crochet; grandads puffed on their pipes and pottered among their plants.

A curious thing has happened in the past few decades. The age of exhaustion is getting higher. With role models like Olympic sprinter Linford Christie (a grandad at the age 35), grandpa Mick Jagger still prancing and pouting at 54, and gorgeous granny Nanette Newman, this third generation is no longer content to decline gracefully into small people in slippers. They are all too busy finding themselves.

The 18 million people in Britain aged 50 and over have a higher life expectancy than ever before (74 for men and 80 for women, compared to 45 and 49 respectively in 1901). Typically, they have got rid of their dependents, finished paying off their mortgages, may have inherited money and are living for themselves. Total consumer spending in the UK in 1991 was £335.5bn. People over 50 spent £148.5 of this, 8 per cent more per person than average.

One grandfather of my acquaintance took up surfing when he retired and now spends much of the year on a beach in north Cornwall in pursuit of the perfect wave. He has begun to get something approaching a surfer's body and would probably have grown a pony tail if only he were not bald.

One widowed grandmother joined a dating agency, fell in love and remarried only to lose her second husband within five weeks — because, it was widely rumoured, of too much sex. With an impressive disregard for what the neighbours might think, this Granny Spice has now taken up with the man down the road.

Granny power is everywhere. The surfer and the serial monogamist do not think of themselves as OAPs or as anything with connotations of fading, reduction and decline, but as Third Agers. They have time and money and they mean to make use of both.

A recent survey for Saga Services, the personal finance company targeted at people over 50, found that their customers' largest annual expenditure was on holidays, and that those holidays were becoming increasingly adventurous. This group also splashed out on cars and home improvements. They have acquired sweatshirts instead of shawls (liable to get caught in the spokes of the exercise bike) and swapped the crochet for yoga, which they ideally like to practise on a Greek island or in a Tibetan monastery.

This is disturbing for their children. For many of us, the notion of celebrating Grandparents' Day (today) by rushing round to our parents with talcum powder and chocolates could not be more misplaced.

For one thing, they probably would not be in. Between my mother's U3A (University of the Third Age) classes and committee work for the adult education institute, art galleries, theatre, music, fitness, etc, it is practically impossible to make an appointment to see her. If you want her to babysit, you have to ring her up weeks in advance.

The writer Jilly Cooper is an eloquent champion of sixty-something romance. "Now that I am 60 I understand the lust and longings of this age group. I like to think of it as sex between autumn flowers — lovely."

She added: "My son was horrified when his grandparents decided to sleep in separate bedrooms — he thought they were getting a divorce. My mother took him to one side and said: 'It's only because grandad snores so much, but don't worry, we still have our nice times.'

"There are some wonderful old ladies here in Gloucestershire. One grand old dame got herself a lover at 80. When asked if it was platonic, she replied, 'Certainly not, but I do ration it to twice a week.' Another resigned as head of a Women's Institute, confiding to a friend that it was so she could have sex in the afternoon."

This older-person dating worries some adult children enormously. It is always difficult to think of your parents having sex, but to think of them actually choosing to do it with someone new, and for pleasure, can be quite disgusting.

Rampaging Third Agers are also posing new protocol and etiquette problems. If, for instance, your mother and her lover come to stay, should you put them in the same bedroom?

John Morgan, author of *Debrett's Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners* who also writes for *The Times*, says: "Just as the modern parent has to be accommodating about their offspring's love life, today's grown-up child must not be puritanical about the born-again sex life of a parent.

"Traditionally, you are supposed to ask the woman what arrangement she would prefer, as it is generally accepted that men would always rather have a double bed. So ask your mother."

● *John Morgan's advice on etiquette, page 30*

'The day I kneed a burglar in the groin'

PA PHOTOS

Lady Kennett:"I never feel that life has left me behind"

LADY KENNET, who writes as Elizabeth Young, is the wife of the hereditary peer Lord Kennet, who served in the Minstry of Housing and Local Government (later the Department of the Environment) in Harold Wilson's government.

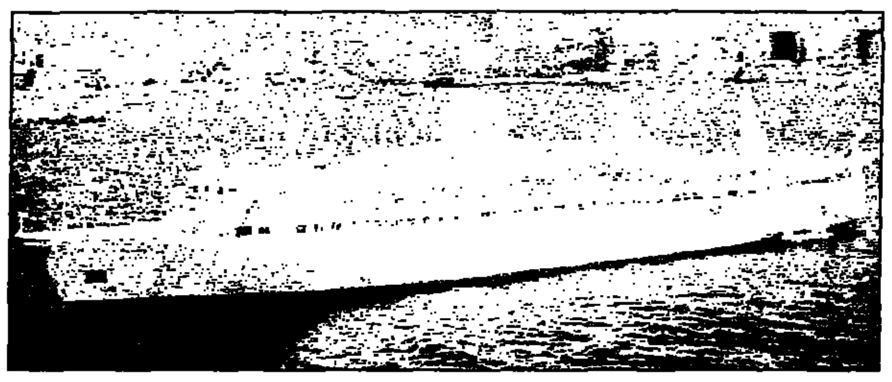
"My first great-grandchild was born on the day last year that I kneed a burglar in the groin," she said. "I have six children and a large number of grandchildren. Old age has not resulted in any reduction of my activities: I have fewer people to cook for now and more time to get on with things I'm interested in. I haven't given anything up.

"I'm a writer by trade and the kinds of things I write about — political matters, arms control, architectural history — don't go away. I've contributed close on 5,000 words to the Government's defence review and I'm towards the end of helping to organise a conference on the EU fisheries policy.

"SOME old people do have a miserable time. But I'm not built to sit back. One's older friends do die off, which is miserable, and those abroad don't travel so much, but we do. This year we've been to Italy and France. My husband, who is 74, is in Ukraine this week. We're going to Romania later in the year and hope to go to India in December. We live part of the time in Wiltshire, where we're involved in campaigns to protect Stonehenge and Avebury.

"Obviously we're busier than younger people, because we haven't got so many things that we've been building up. I'm not as interested in clothes as I used to be, but I've got enough old ones put away for when the fashion next comes round. I was looking today at a pair of stilettos that I bought 20 years ago that will be just the job for Christmas. I never get the sense that life has left me behind. That really is the last thing it's done."

ARABELLA WARNER



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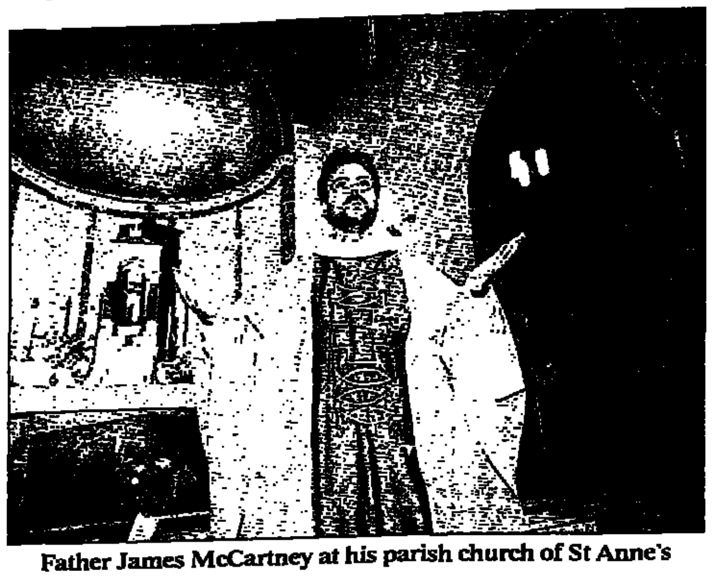
Can video collar their mass exodus?

The Catholic church hopes a film will solve its priest-recruitment difficulties, says **Ruth Gledhill**



Father James McCartney at his parish church of St Anne's

BARRY GREENWOOD

Fr McCartney, one of the stars of the video, talks to homeless youths in his parish. He has set up Thomas, an organisation helping those on the margins of society

As vocations to the priesthood drop below replacement level, the Roman Catholic church has taken the unprecedented step of preparing a recruitment video promoting the joys of becoming a priest.

The video, to be issued to 4,000 secondary schools next month, counters the image of the celibate Catholic priesthood as a *Ballykissangel*-style idyll, or job devoid of excitement and dominated by a ceaseless round of saying Mass and hearing confession.

The priesthood is portrayed instead as an exciting and demanding career, likely to appeal to a wide range of young men seeking a challenge in life.

And while priests don't have much to write home about in terms of salary or wordly status, the aim is to persuade schoolboys that the spiritual and emotional rewards far outweigh the lack of material remuneration on offer.

The unparalleled recruitment drive comes at a time when the number of annual ordinations has fallen by a quarter in Britain, from 101 in 1978 to 76 in 1994. In 1994 alone the church lost 100 priests who passed away, on top of those who left to marry or for other reasons, meaning the replacement level is far below what it needs to be if the Catholic church is to sustain its ideal of a priest in every parish in Britain.

Figures for this year are expected to be even worse, with most dioceses reporting exceptionally low morale among priests after the affair of Roderick Wright, the Scottish priest who eloped with a divorcée amid a torrent of publicity.

The British decline contrasts with a healthy picture worldwide, where the number of young men entering seminaries to train for the priesthood has increased from 60,000 in 1975 to 105,000 in 1994.

The only significant departure from the British decline came after the Pope's visit in 1982, when vocations shot up for two or three years. The same phenomenon is currently being reported in France, in the wake of the Pope's recent visit there.

And in a further blow to the church, Catholic schools, once considered a rich recruiting ground for the priesthood, are being hit as increasing numbers of former pupils are breaking with tradition by sending their sons to non-Catholic schools, such as Eton, instead. From having a mere handful of Catholic boys in the 1970s, Eton now has 142 Catholic pupils out of a total of 1,280 and has even appointed a resident Catholic chaplain, Father David Forrester, to care for their spiritual needs.

Blaise Davies, a former monk at Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire, was commissioned to produce the video and poster campaign at a vocations conference in Rome last year. The footage features a young offender, once a notorious absconder from care who earned the nickname Spider Boy, in his conversion to Christianity and subsequent baptism. It shows two priests, Fr James McCartney of Blackburn and Fr Philip Sumner of Moss Side, Manchester, in their work with drug addicts, the homeless and people living on the margins of society.

It also shows hospital chaplain Fr Stephen Pritchard of Fazakerley, Liverpool, working with the terminally ill, and Fr Mike White of Alton Castle Retreat Centre in Derbyshire working with schoolchildren. The life of the trainee priest in a seminary in Chelsea, London is featured, as is the work that goes into preparing couples for marriage.

"In no way are we proselytising," says Mr Davies, 32, who decided the priesthood was not for him because of his desire one day to have a family of his own. Nevertheless, he still supports the ideal of the celibate priesthood and worked closely with Ampleforth for several years, leaving recently to set up his own company, Purple Media.

The recruitment video shows a young offender converting to Christianity and being baptised by a prison chaplain, Father Patrick Cope

"Negative images of the clergy in the wake of the Roderick Wright affair, coupled with more light-hearted ones such as Father Ted and *Ballykissangel*, do little to inform the 96 per cent of the population which has little to do with church about the day-to-day challenges facing the average priest," he says.

"It was not uncommon a generation or so ago for priests to suggest to young men that they may have a vocation to the priesthood," he says. "It was accepted at that time that the priest was part of the family and he featured greatly in their lives.

"Such an environment, coupled with regular churchgoing, made priesthood normal and made marketing it relatively easy.

"Now, with all the social changes and the prominence of church-related scandals, many members of the clergy feel, albeit falsely, that their currency has been devalued and that their relationships with lay people are viewed with suspicion."

Fr McCartney, 35, the parish priest of St Anne's, Blackburn, says he left his former career as a hospital technician to find spiritual satisfaction as a priest.

At St Anne's, he has set up Thomas, an organisation to help those on the margins of society, and also publishes a quarterly magazine, *Edges*, carrying articles by bishops alongside articles and poems by drug addicts, prostitutes and homeless people.

"I was interested in the spiritual dimension, in transcendence and mystery," he says. "Working in an operating theatre at Manchester Royal Infirmary, I began to question the meaning of life. I came across a lot of people who were dying. I didn't really find fulfilment in what I was doing."

In his parish, in the heart of Blackburn's red-light district, he finds spiritual satisfaction in seeking God among the ruins of the lives of those who attend his day centre. Many are being helped by him to escape lives blighted by drug addiction and alcoholism. "Without the people on the streets, I don't think I would have been ordained," he says.

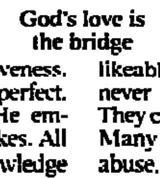
Credo

God's message is one of hope

Dr Jonathan Sacks

Rosh Hashanah — the Jewish New Year which begins this Wednesday evening — signals the start of ten days of intense self-examination culminating in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. For me these days have never lost their power to create an atmosphere of vivid spirituality. The synagogue is full. And from the sound of the ram's horn on Rosh Hashanah to the climax of the fasting and prayer on Yom Kippur, you can almost touch the divine presence.

We come before God, bringing Him our lives and our shortcomings. We think of the past year, the wrong we did, the people we hurt and the good we failed to do. For a moment, the synagogue becomes a courtroom and God a judge. We plead, not our innocence but our all-too-frequent guilt. Yet despite the solemnity of this drama, its ultimate message is one of hope.



God's love is the bridge

The reason is that at the heart of these days is the idea of divine forgiveness. God does not ask us to be perfect. In giving us freedom, He empowers us to make mistakes. All He asks is that we acknowledge them, make amends where we can and dedicate ourselves to doing a little better next time.

Forgiveness is a profoundly religious idea. It flows from a particular conception of the universe and our place in it. Reality is more than a set of blind forces, the genetic stream, the survival of the fittest, the march of technology or the play of the market. Beneath them all, more distant than the stars, closer than our innermost thoughts, is a Thou to whom we speak in prayer and who speaks to us in the silence of self-knowledge. God is the face of otherwise faceless chance, our one assurance that hope is not an illusion.

Without God, fate would seem immeasurably cruel. The poor, the sick, what the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales called "the constituency of the rejected", would be the victims of inexorable forces — war, famine, economic progress. There would be no reason to suppose things could be otherwise. But if at the heart of the universe there is a God who cares, no fate is final. Reaching out to God we find Him stretching out His hand to us, giving us the strength to begin again. Our worst failures can be overcome. Our worst wrongs can be forgiven. More than we believe in God, God believes in us.

I recently visited a drug rehabilitation centre. I wanted to deepen my understanding of repentance (in Hebrew, teshuvah). On the Jewish High Holy Days we believe that by reflecting on the past, seeing where we went wrong and expressing our remorse, we can break its hold on us and change into better human beings. I thought that by talking to young drug addicts trying to break the habit, I would gain an insight into what changes lives. It was a profoundly moving experience. They were likeable young people who had never had much of a chance. They came from broken families. Many had a history of child abuse. I could understand why they wanted to escape from pain. I admired their courage now in fighting addiction.

I asked the director what, in her view, were the most important things the centre gave them. She said: "This is the first place they have encountered unconditional love. And we are the first people who care enough about them to say no."

The more I thought about it, the more I realised she had expressed the great truth about God's love for us. It is non-judgmental. There is an absolute difference between good and evil, right and wrong. God cares enough about us to say no. But it is unconditional. However often we fail, God never gives up on us. For me, that belief is the source of courage, strength and hope. God's love is the bridge from what we are to what we are called on to be.

● *Dr Sacks is the Chief Rabbi.*

First steps on a journey into the light

Ruth Gledhill visits a London parish which has acquired not only a retired bishop as its new vicar, but also his son

AFTER languishing without a vicar of their own for more than a year, the parishioners of St James in Clerkenwell, north London, are still in a state of elated surprise, having landed the ministry of not only a retired bishop, but of his son as well. The Right Rev Michael Baughen, 67, a traditional evangelical who shot to ecclesiastical prominence during his time as rector of the BBC church, All Souls in Langham Place, and then became Bishop of Chester, has been appointed priest-in-charge of St James. His son Andrew, 33, also an evangelical but from the more modern mould of HTB (Holy Trinity Brompton in Knightsbridge), has become priest-in-charge designate.

Bishop Baughen intends to be present at the church for as many Sundays as possible and will share the preaching with his son: "It will be wonderful to work with my son. He has tremendous gifts abd it is a great delight to be able to learn from him."

Father and son: the Baughens

We were at the church, which counts *The Guardian* newspaper building at one end of its parish and poverty-ridden council estates at the other, for the licensing and installation of the two men. Bishop Baughen is tall, but his son is more so, at 6ft 6in. Towering over his father, he unveiled his plans for this unsuspecting parish. "The journey into the light" was to begin with toddler groups, a Tuesday club for the elderly, aerobics and uniformed clubs. There is to be "JC Works", a ten-week introduction to Christianity, "TGI Sunday", a fast-moving bible, drama and singing show on Sunday mornings and "JC Access", an evening discussion, music and preaching group. Christians are not asked to leave their current churches, but maybe to "take a sabbatical" and "come as a launcher" to St James. The key words are praying, building, loving, submitting, speaking, giving and receiving.

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PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE: Right Rev Michael Baughen and son.

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SERMON: Witty, erudite, long. ★★★

MUSIC & LITURGY: Historic 1792 George England organ. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Chilli-senza-carne, home-made cake ★★★★★

First there was the licensing by Dr John Sentamu, the Bishop of Stepney, also an evangelical, who preached, and the installation by the Ven Clive Young, Archdeacon of Hackney. Rachel Baughen, wife of Baughen-the-younger, read from Philippians. A beautiful, blond baby Baughen toddled around, demanding cuddles from her father. Father and son publicly declared their assent to the Anglican inheritance of faith. "The Church of England is part of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit," the archdeacon said.

"I Andrew, I Michael, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic Creeds," said the two men. I left, pondering the phenomenon of evangelicalism enjoying a revival in our churches, but reflecting that this was one parish at least that was truly Baughen again.

● *St James, Clerkenwell, London EC1V 4NP (0171-251 1190)*

Church services tomorrow

Last day before Armageddon

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Canon H J W Moore; 3.15 Ch E, Sumsion in A.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch M, Te Deum in F (Ireland); 3.15 Ch E; 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M, I will lift up (Vaughan Williams); 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ordination, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow); 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 4 Ch E, Canon Hall.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 H Euch; 11 Euch, Sumsion in F, The Dean; 3.30 E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Ave Maria (Fauré); 3.30, Responses (Smith).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 3.15 E, Rev G Davis; 6.30 Sermon & Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Ordination, Ireland in C, Canon R Frank.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight; 11.15 S Euch; 6 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon Webster; 11.15 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 6 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, 3.30 Ch Euch, Harwood in A flat.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Canon P Oestreicher; 3 Farewell Service for Bishop of Coventry.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Canon T Chesterman; 6 Ch E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 M; 10 Ordination, Missa Sancti Nicolai; 3 E; 6.30 ES, Canon A Mawson.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Euch, Canon R Gray; 3 E, Collegium Regale (Howells).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), The Archdeacon of Hereford; 11.30 M; 3.30 E.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, The Assistant Bishop; 4 Ch E, I lift my eyes (Baughen).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 3.30 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP; 10.30 Euch; 3 Harvest Festival, Let the people praise thee (Mathias); 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Festal E; 6.30 Parish E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Mozart in C, Canon I Bennett; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilate in A (Gray); 6.30 S Euch.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 11 Ordination of Deacons; 3.30 Festal First Evensong of Michaelmas; 6.30 Young People's Euch.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, 3 E, Blair in B minor, Canon J Tetley.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Missa O Quam gloriosum (Vittoria); 6.30 E, Canon T Winterbotham.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Ordination; 11.30 M; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Weelkes).

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Beati Quorum Via (Stanford); 3.15 First Evensong of St Michael and All Angels.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Ordination; 3 E, Geistliches Lied (Brahms), Canon J Davies.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ordination; 3 Ch E, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), Provost.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat; 3.15 E.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch; 3 Guide Dogs for the Blind Service; 6 E, Murrill in E, The Dean.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Euch, O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore); 3 E; 5.45 Recital English Chamber Choir; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Solemn Mass; 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Vespers and Benediction, Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 5.30, 7 ES.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow); 11.15 S Euch; 3.30 E, Rev N Gardner.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 11.30 M; 4 E, Canon P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Stanford in B flat, Rev C A Mitchell; 3.30 EP.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC; 11.30 MS, Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré); 8 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Magnificat (Buxtehude).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, O sing joyfully (Batten); 6 ES, Rev R Frazer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 11 Euch; 11.15 S Euch; 3.15 Ch E, Wood in F, Rt Rev L G Urwin.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Canon J Halliburton; 3.15 E; 5 Organ Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Rev I Davies; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15; 6.30 ES, Rev S Hood.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Rev S Millar; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.30 Mass; 3.30 Vespers & Benediction; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Like as the hart (Howells); 6.30 Ch Euch.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch M, Jubilate (Walton); 6.30 Ch E, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch M, Te Deum and Jubilate (Boyce in C); 12.30 HC, Rev D Mackenzie.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11; 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Splendente Te Deus (Mozart).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev The Bishop of Stockholm; 5.45 EP.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP, Rev C Kevill-Davies; 12.15 HC; 6.30 Ch E.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 10 M; 11 S Euch; 11.15 Euch; 3 E; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 ES, Sister H Markey.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev A Hurst; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington WS: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M, Rev P Stubbs; 6.30 E.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa Ave maris stella (Victoria); 6 Solemn E; 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev D Jones;

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Euch, Blessed city (Bairstow), Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Fr D B Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, Benedictus (Takis), Preb M McGowan; 6.30 E.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 9 LM, 11 HM, Simile est Regnum (Guerrero), Rev R F Bushau.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Factum est silentium (Dering), Rev P R C Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, For he shall give his angels (Mendelssohn), 3.30 E.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Alas That I Offended Ever (Hooper), Rev M T Ball; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, The Chaplain.

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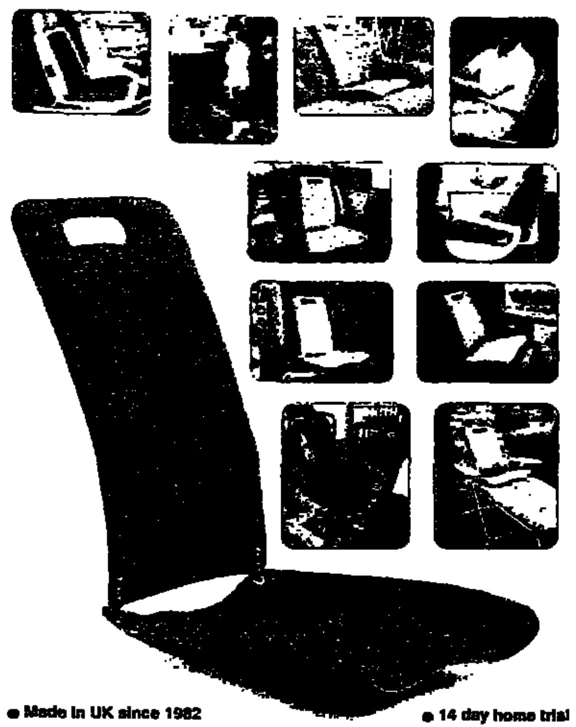

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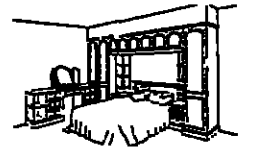

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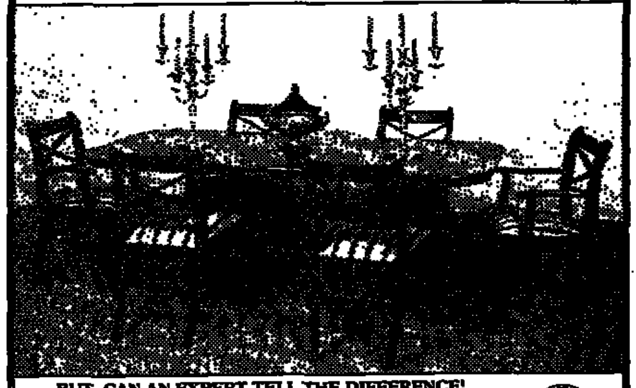

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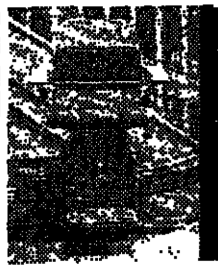

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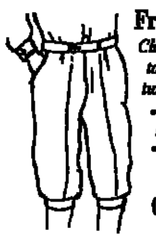

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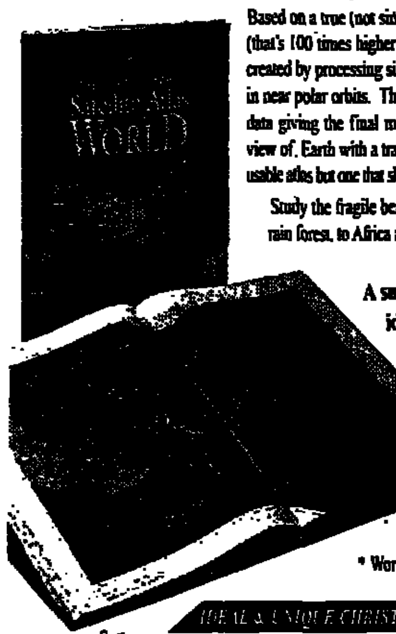

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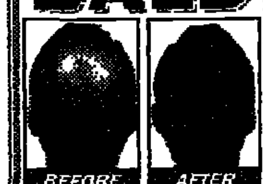

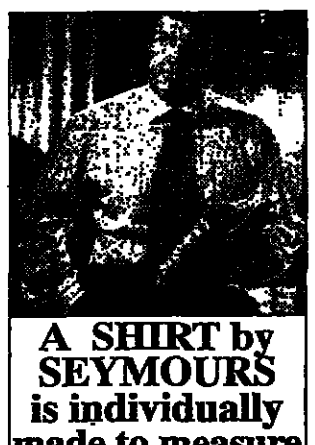

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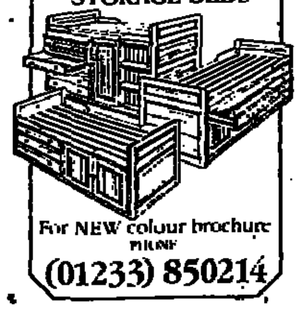

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Take your pick from autumn walks, golf or gold thread embroidery

ROGER SCUTON/IMPACT

The price of fish — the history of Britain's deep-sea fishermen is a topical subject under discussion at Higham Hall in Cumbria in October

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 3-5

Watercolour painting: botanical illustration; Lectures on opera, The Marriage of Figaro: At West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices £150 residential, £97 non-residential.

Cylinders to CDs, a history of recorded sound: *Gold thread embroidery*: At Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). Prices from £75 for two nights inclusive.

Suffolk's medieval houses; Calligraphy: At the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283), from £72-£102.

Walking in the autumn landscape: Guided walks on the North Downs of Surrey from Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre, Dorking (01306 883849). Prices from £79-£102, according to accommodation.

Memoir writing; The work of Handel; A patchwork workshop: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112 inclusive.

Talking with confidence; Japanese gardening; Towards the millennium; Miniature painting: At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). From £159 residential or £69 non-residential.

Writing poetry; Medieval art: At Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course £70 inclusive.

Dig this, British archaeology; The green man: At Wensum Lodge, Norwich (01603 666021). Price per course £84 inclusive.

The high Victorian garden: At University of Oxford, Rewley House, Oxford, in association with the Garden History Society (01865 270360). Price £44.

Illustrating autumn fruits and fungi; Myths, dreams and impossibilities: At University of Camrbridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636). Price £117 per course inclusive.

Golfing enthusiasts' weekend in Scotland: At Balbirnie House, Markinch, Fife (01592 610066). Two nights, including one round on Balbirnie Park golf course, with half-board accommodation. From £99.50 per person per night.

OCTOBER 10-12

Wildlife weekend on the coast of Pembrokeshire: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Guided walks, talks and tours from £150 inclusive.

Elementary wind chamber music: At the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchen, Hertfordshire (01462 459446). From £102-£116 inclusive.

The life and works of Vincent Van Gogh; Aromatherapy and reflexology: At Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (01491 680221). Price per course £92.

Heritage Wessex tours: From the White Hart Hotel, Andover, Hampshire (01264 352266). Chauffeured visits to Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, Winchester and Wilton House. Price, including half-board accommodation, transport and entrance fees, £196 for two nights.

Caving, climbing, hang-gliding, mountain navigation: Based at Edale in the Peak District. From YHA Adventure Trails (01727 845047). Prices for two nights from £93 per person; hang-gliding from £163.

The price of fish — the history of Britain's deep-sea fishermen: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). From £117, full-board.

Writing Gothic fiction; Singing opera choruses; Playing medieval drama: At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). From £159 residential, £59 non-residential.

Improve your watercolours; Bats and other small mammals; Lichens: At the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Colchester (01206 298283). From £79 to £102, inclusive.

Ancient warfare, part one, Greek warfare; The Harpsichord and its world; English manorial records: At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course £117, inclusive of accommodation.

Drawing from the model; Matisse; Everyone can sing: Two practical arts courses this weekend at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course from £70.

OCTOBER 17-19

Antiques weekend at Hovingham in Yorkshire: With Lars Tharp, the television expert, at the Worsley Arms Hotel (01653 628234). An insight into the world of antiques and fine art. Accommodation, all activities and tutored wine tastings from £199.

Cider and winetasting weekend on the Welsh border: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price, inclusive of accommodation and tastings, £195.

Marine and coastal landscapes; The Jacobite challenge: At Belstead House College, Ipswich (01473 686321). Prices per course from £75 inclusive.

Picture framing; Machine knitting: At Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151 336 5172). From £98 inclusive.

Hedgelaying weekend: Mosses; Land and freshwater molluscs; Six Suffolk villages: At Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). From £79 inclusive.

Piano workshop; Painting miniatures; Walking sticks: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112 inclusive.

Intermediate French; Mixed media painting; Countryside walks and talks; Italian opera: At Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01873 855221). From £88 inclusive.

Garden painting at a classic English house; King Arthur; Hypnosis and relaxation: At Knutston Hall, Irchester, Northamptonshire (01933 312104). From £98 inclusive.

Conservation weekends: With the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (01491 839766). A variety of conservation projects need the help of willing hands. Weekend rates, full board and accommodation from £20. Skills taught include dry stone walling, thatching and hedgelaying.

Pottery, throwing and turning; Watercolours for beginners; Opera and recital masterclass; Introduction to woodturning: At West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). From £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

Personalities of the First World War; British teddy bears; What's that bird?; Walking the Ridgeway Path: At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Prices are from £159 full board, or £59 non-residential.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

ON THE SPOT

Rural recommendations

The place: Bolton Priory, Skipton, North Yorkshire

The view: Ahead lie the priory and River Wharfe and to your right, gentle slopes leading to Barden Fell, culminating in Simon's Seat, the highest point in the area. Barden Moor lies northwest and in autumn the landscape is a vivid golden brown.

The appeal: An unspoilt, rural area of natural beauty.

Aficionados: Ramblers, birdwatchers and anglers.

Historical interest: The impressive priory dates from the 12th century, when it was built for Augustinian canons after a young boy drowned in the deep, fast-flowing water of The Strid. The beautiful setting has inspired Wordsworth, Ruskin and Turner, who created a famous watercolour of the scene.

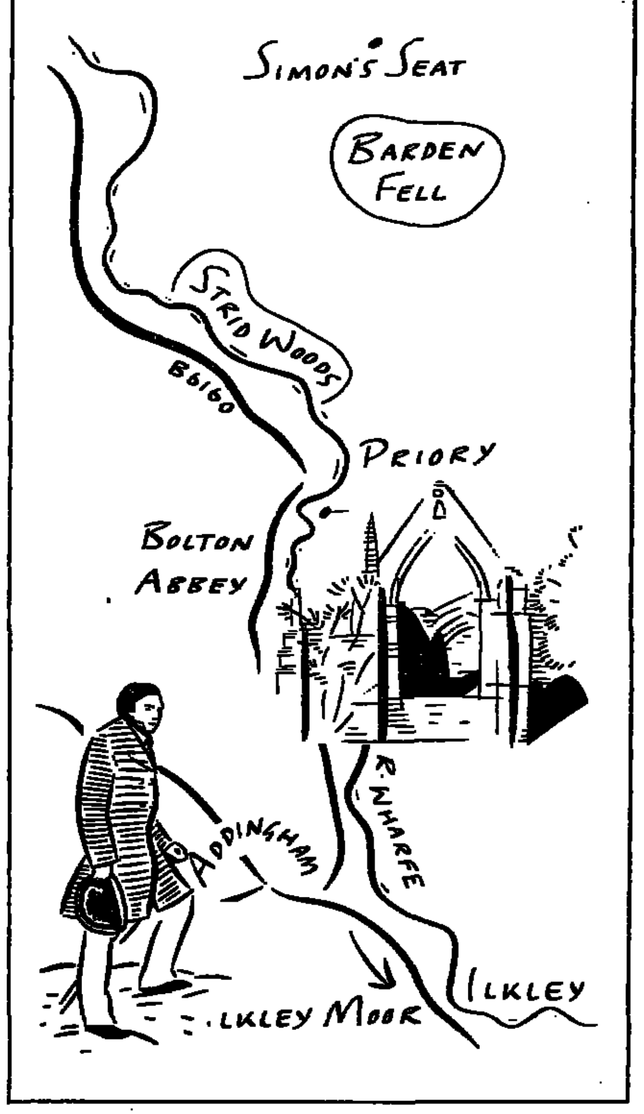
Time to visit: The grounds and nature trails are open all year round.

How to get there: B6160 to Bolton Abbey. From the village car park walk towards the "Hole in the Wall", and cross the river by footbridge or stepping stones.

OS reference: 075 543 on sheet 104

Also nearby: 30 miles of nature trails through the Strid Woods. Fine trout fishing and six miles southeast lies Ilkley Moor.

DEBORAH KING



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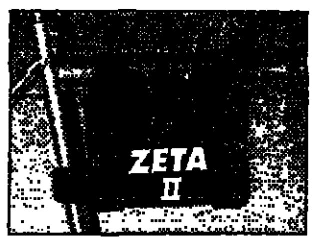
The belt driving the wheel



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Satellite technology allowing rural dwellers to keep an eye on their neighbours could also kill off at least one cherished tradition

Sky spy threatens romp in the hay

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

To get a proper view of the countryside, you have to get up high. And I do not mean halfway up a mountain. Just a few feet will do, and then you will find yourself peering into a new and unobserved world. Elevate yourself a little more and you will suddenly realise that the countryside you thought you knew is a stranger to you.

I first learnt this some years ago when I owned a pair of fell ponies, Ebony and China, which I drove around the Suffolk lanes. The box seat — from where the carriage was driven — placed me a couple of feet higher even than Range Rover drivers: add to that the bonus of travelling at a sedate five or six miles per hour, and meandering through the English countryside becomes a revelation.

We found cottages in unsuspected places behind bramble-ridden gardens; we surprised gardeners who thought their beech hedges were high enough to prevent any intrusion; we gave cows a fright as we appeared over fences. An additional effect of the extra height was to push the horizon away from us by several miles, which offered a new appreciation of how our neighbouring farms and villages, until then viewed in isolation, related to each other.

So, having had a taste of wider vistas, I welcome the arrival next month of the EarlyBird satellite, which its commercial owners will use to supply spy photographs on demand. Although many of its customers will be fractious neighbours trying to settle disputes ranging from unauthorised car parking to illegal bonfire lighting, the effects on country life could be far more rewarding.

The pictures will be far from perfect, because only features greater than a metre across are visible. This rules out most individuals, but we will be able to spot the hedgerows that are being secretly removed, the 4x4 drivers churning along unauthorised tracks, and the *irrigation ponds built with hefty subsidy* being used as swimming pools or trout fisheries.

Slender trespassers, for the moment, will get away with their ramblings providing their rucksacks are not overstuffed; but landowners who fail to keep open their footpaths can be spotted and acted upon.

There is, of course, a civil rights aspect to all this; country dwellers may well complain at the gross intrusion into their privacy. Rural crime is rare compared with inner cities, so the arguments in favour of closed-circuit TV surveillance hardly apply. (This may *change. I was stopped in a local market* town to be told by an elderly lady that she had just "suffered a night of violence". On closer questioning, she revealed in a shocked voice that two lads who had drunk a bottle of cider too many kicked a football down the street at one o'clock in the morning for all of five minutes.)

The ability of the satellite to pick up smaller details will surely increase. Farmers will soon be able to see where the rabbits burrow at night, which cars drop old bedsteads by gateways at dusk, and identify the picnickers who discard crisp packets on summer afternoons. And in the field of pure nosiness, one of the traditional sports of country life, the satellite could be of great help.

Rural nosiness is largely innocent and born out of honest curiosity. The best example I know is that of farm workers a century ago. On Sunday afternoons, when farm work was suspended, their sport was to walk the lanes and peer over the gates of all the other farms, observing the standard of the workmanship and the straightness of the ploughing.

In extreme cases, such as wandering furrows, remarks were made later in the pub and legs severely pulled. I have often been tempted into nosy ways. We once had a neighbour who grew onions from seed with such success that his garden became a place of pilgrimage. If asked how he did it, his unhelpful reply was always "*nowt special about onions*". Now we would be able to track him from above, and see the feed he was dosing them with, and whether it was by moonlight.

Another enigmatic keeper of Suffolk Punches would never reveal his secrets of feeding carthorses. His horses looked like Mr Universe, but when asked how he did it, he always replied, "they just eat what they get on the meadow".

What they ate there, of course, was more than just the grass. He was regularly carting buckets of something to them. But he took the secret to his grave. Had he been alive today, we could all have bought satellite pictures of his furtive feeding and have carthorses looking like Charles Atlas.

It is bad news for those confiners of farm animals who try and kid us they have free-range hens, cattle or pigs. We shall be able to see exactly how much time the inmates of Sunnyjoy Farm actually spend in the open air. The only bad news is that the spy in the sky will be the death-knell of one keenly pursued rural pastime that has stood the test of *time. It involves haystacks. Work it out.*

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

New Forest ponies face a hard winter

Decline of the once-prized pets endangers an ancient way of life, says **Trevor Lawson**

HUTCHISON

New Forest ponies are considered too small by children

KIT HOUGHTON

As the volume of traffic has grown over the years, so the room for the ponies to roam in has decreased, threatening the ecology of the forest

Ray Bennett breathes in sharply and shakes his head. "It's getting more difficult all the time," he says. "The future is looking delicate, to say the least."

Bennett, 68, lives in the New Forest, where he runs more than 100 ponies on the forest commons. He has been a New Forest commoner for more than 50 years, buying and rearing his first pony in 1946.

Things were easier then, he says. There was a market for the ponies he reared. Now there isn't. New Forest ponies have, sadly, fallen out of fashion, and their future is now in the balance.

At this time of year the commoners round up their ponies in the annual pony drifts just as they have for centuries.

But this year as they worm them, brand them or sell them where they can find buyers, many commoners are heavy at heart. Where once foals were selling for 80 guineas each, now they fetch just 11 guineas.

"Prices are very bad. Through the years there has always been a demand for the ponies but now that has gone," he says. "The children of today want something bigger than a forest pony. And there isn't the demand for pit ponies any more either."

The number of New Forest ponies has declined from 4,200 in 1994 to 3,300 today. Sue Westwood, Clerk to the Verderers, a sort of medieval court responsible for the management of stock in the New Forest, believes that the commoners will have to breed *better ponies to survive.*

"The New Forest pony has not got the same appeal as some of the more flashy breeds such as the Welsh Cob," she says. "If this trend continues then commoning is at risk."

And if commoning is at risk, so too is the forest. "It is essential to the ecology of the forest. Commoning is the architect of the forest. If the stock wasn't there, it would become overgrown and inaccessible," says Westwood.

Cattle graze the forest but they are subsidised because they are classed as agricul*tural animals. But ponies re*ceive no subsidy. .

Each commoner — you have to occupy land which has common rights attached to be able to run ponies — pays £15 per pony to the Verderers Court, which then pays *"agisters" to supervise the* stock.

"No commoner makes a living out of commoning any more. The cattle are more lucrative, but anybody with ponies has to have another source of income," says Westwood.

"People like to keep up a tradition, but not if it is losing them money."

Some 400 commoners exercise rights in the New Forest but few run the great herds of ponies that were once the norm.

"Nowadays we have hobby *commoners.* A lot of people do it because they like to see ponies," she adds. "People like to turn out two or three ponies now."

Some of the old *hands* have suggested these incomers are not real ponymen. "They are very different, these New Age commoners," says Ray Bennett. "They're not the same at all."

Richard Stride, who is one of the forest's 10 verderers and whose great-grandfather was a commoner, agrees: "They keep a couple of ponies for a hobby and they go off to London and say 'Oh I'm a commoner in the New Forest', but riding two ponies is all *that the forest* means to them."

> 'Anybody with ponies has to have another source of income'

Despite their comparatively amateurish attitude, the incomers may yet turn out to be the saviours of the New Forest *pony.*

Often, they are wealthy enough to be able to withstand the losses that are currently associated with commoning. Yet their presence symbolises the increasing commercialisation of the forest, which has put *further pressure on common* land. In the 1960s, an Act of Parliment allowed certain roads to be fenced off because of accidents. Some years later, more roads were fenced off along with certain towns as *heavier volumes of traffic* rushed through the forest.

One commoner, Chris Anderson, says that the failure of one of his mares to come in with other ponies in the drift this year is simply another symptom of the trend.

"She might have been hit by a car and died in the bracken somewhere. More ponies get run down every year — there must have been 20 in the last couple of months," he says. Each pony lost, usually run over by a commuter rather than a tourist, takes with it £35 that might have been earned from a sale.

The *fencing-off* causes its own problems. There is less forest now for the ponies. "It's getting smaller all the time," explains Ray Bennett. "There's less area for the ponies to run over.

"*They used to be able to go* into Lyndhurst but they can't do that any more. I am against *further* fencing, but the amount of traffic now passing through is so awful that they cannot do anything else."

Development, too, is taking its toll. Richard Stride, explains: "A forest man's place used to be small and the land just around it was used to *bring in livestock in hard* weather. Nowadays, it has been turned into a minimansion so the land is lost.

"You can't blame the people for doing it but they are ruining the forest because they don't want to run scores of ponies and why should they? There's *no* real money in it."

As the Ray Bennetts of the forest head off on horseback *for the drifts this autumn,* there will be little evidence of these "New Age" hobby commoners. For them, commoning is a fair-weather activity.

Watching the wary woodpigeon

FEATHER REPORT

PETER BROWN

Woodpigeon, chaffinch and starling: Widely seen in Britain in 1996

THE British Trust for Ornithology has a new method of estimating the changes in the bird population of the United Kingdom. *It is called the* Breeding Bird Survey, and during the past two years it has taken the place of the old Common Birds Census, which ran for 35 years. The main difference is that the sample of the country that is now covered includes all the main bird habitats, *including towns* and mooorland, whereas the old CBC confined itself to farmland, woodland and river banks.

Judging by the survey, the most widely distributed bird in 1996 was the woodpigeon, closely followed by the chaffinch, while the most abundant bird overall was the starling, closely followed by the woodpigeon. So the woodpigeon comes out strong.

You would not be surprised by that if you wandered through the newly ploughed fields at the moment. Sometimes you see in the distance what looks like an enormous misty-blue cloud that has settled on the earth. When you get a little closer you see that it is a great flock of woodpigeons busily feeding. It is hard to get close to the flock, since in the country woodpigeons are wary birds, but if you stalk them you will see one fascinating feature.

The whole flock is moving forward slowly across the field. But in the front *the birds* are looking round them more and pecking at the ground less often. Sometimes these front birds even look a bit smaller and undernourished. They are the submissive members of the flock, rather frightened of the great body of dominant members behind them. They are likely to lead the way when the flock is alarmed and rises from the field with a thunderous roar of clapping wings.

Starlings also feed in the fields in large flocks at this time of the year, but they seem *to have plenty of spare* time. A characteristic autumn sound is a party of them sitting in a tree making whirring and clicking calls, and occasionally a more musical whistle or trill. They often do this before all flying off to roost together.

Chaffinches also flock in the autumn, but many of these are immigrants from Scandinavia. Often they are pure hen parties, since the females desert the north sooner and travel further than the males. They *make their headquarters in trees* at the edge of a field, and drop down to the ground to pick up seeds when the coast is clear. At the first sign of danger they fly up into the branches again. There is a constant movement up and down as each bird follows its own impulse. At a distance they look like leaves falling and being blown upwards at the same time.

Another set of figures in the new report shows changes in the numbers of different species between 1994 and 1996. On the whole, it makes cheering reading. Common partridges, which have been in serious decline for some time, picked up a little over those two years, and summer visitors such as the willow warbler and garden warbler have made a *recovery*, suggesting that conditions have been better for them in their African winter quarters. Wrens, which a few years ago were the commonest British birds, were hit by the cold winter of 1995-96, but that is something that must have happened many times in their history. The farmland birds are still suffering most. The cheerful yellowhammer, which seemed to have escaped the fate of the corn bunting and linnet, has now joined them on the downward trend.

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From Cézanne to Koons, this exhibition explores the ways in which exceptional artists and exceptional works have transformed the vision and meaning of the still life in the modern age.

Pablo Picasso *Still Life with Pitcher and Apples*, 1919 (Detail) Musée Picasso, Paris © Succession Picasso/DACS 1997

Tickets: £12 (includes entrance to the exhibition, guided tour and drinks)
Call the Hayward Gallery box office on **0171-960 4242**. (Tickets must be purchased in advance. There is a £1 charge for telephone bookings for handling and postage).

Objects of Desire: the Modern Still Life is organised under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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REX FEATURES

Helmet diving is advertised as the only underwater experience in which you can keep your spectacles on. But in fact, the real attraction is that although the helmet is not sealed, air pressure keeps the water out — and your hair dry

Scared of water? Try this

Lynne Truss puts on a glass helmet, a nasal strip and a brave face and braces herself to wander the seabed around Bermuda

A FEAR of drowning has a somewhat deadening effect on most exotic holiday activities — at least, that iss my experience. If you are the sort *of person who pictures their* own lungs as a pair of crumpled plastic bags ready to balloon with gallons of salt water, snorkelling adventures tend not to be top of your must-do holiday list.

At Flatts Village in Bermuda, however, they operate a *rather clever system called* helmet diving, specially devised for neurotic weaklings and aquaphobes. It is advertised as the only underwater experience in which you can keep your specs on.

But it is more than that. Helmet diving is also one of the few underwater experiences in which you remain standing up and look very, very silly. It is inelegant, it looks ridiculous, and you don't see very much in the way of marine eco-diversity. But for *certain unheroic types,* standing ten feet underwater in a swimsuit breathing pumped air and keeping your hair dry feels like a giant step for recreational technology, if not for mankind.

The string of islands that composes Bermuda is arranged deliberately to have maximum coastline for mini*mum land-mass, yet perhaps* because the water is the wild blue Atlantic (and the wealthy resident population is temperamentally sedate), there is not so much mad plunging and diving into the fearful H2O as elsewhere in the jet-set yachty world. Helmet diving fits the *ethos of Bermuda nicely. Like* Bermuda itself, helmet diving is safe, sensible, friendly, civilised, clean. In short, it is for boring, unadventurous travellers like me.

So, the boat chugs off from *its base at Flatts Village on the* north shore, and as it heads towards its regular mooring spot of colourless, shallow coral reef, our bronzed instructor (we'll call him Joe) explains about the big glass-fronted brass *helmets which* are designed to sit loosely on *your shoulders, their substan*tial weight stopping you from floating off the ocean floor. Joe also explains the simple physics by which the air pumped into the helmets through tubes keeps water out, even though *the helmet is not sealed.*

Miraculously, if you have an itchy nose, you can reach inside and scratch it. "Really?" we all say. The small group of (mainly fat) American tourists look unconvinced by all this reassurance, as am I. Forget *physics: what happens if you* fall over? Water would get in *then,* wouldn't it? An American child in a pink swimsuit spends most of the breezy outward journey teaching me how to do a useful facial trick *called "fish lips" — rather* ominous in the circumstances. I don't want to kiss any fish. Especially, of course, if it leads to sleeping with them.

To suppress panic I apply an attractive Breathe Right *nasal strip to my nose* (the sort sportsmen wear), and inhale *lots of fresh, salty, ozoney air* through new enlarged nostrils. But I am definitely reserving the right to back out at the last *minute. I am still* not committed to taking the fearful plunge. "I'll probably *need time to think about this,"* I warn the crew, as I edge my lumpen body feebly down a ladder into the water. "No problem," they say. There will be a light jump required when *the rungs run out, they ex*plain: after which I will be *standing on the seabed.* A helmet is lifted on to my shoulders and lifted straight off again when I squeal "No!" and shake my head. Help, help, can't breathe, dying, help, help. "I've got a bigger *helmet, try this," says the nice* assistant and places another on my shoulders. I test it with a few breaths.

I EDGE down another rung, but when the water laps the glass, I *step* right back up again. Down. Up. Down. Everyone is patient, *though the people already immersed* must be bored by now, with nothing to do except breathe, *stand around and scratch* their noses. Another woman has simply refused to go down and I find that I love her very much. A holidaymaker more namby-pamby than me is a rare discovery.

Later I learn that the so-called "bigger helmet" was nothing of the sort. It was in reality a cunning trick to make scared people feel more secure. But it worked. Reassured by the roominess of the new helmet, I finally descend the ladder, jump off the bottom rung and land on the sand *four feet below. And for the* next gruelling 15 minutes, while Joe routinely demonstrates the feeding of coral (boring) and shuffles us into well-worn camera positions (also boring). I fight panic, *suppress squeals and pray* that someone else is paying the same attention to the effect of the incoming tide — which is in danger of lifting the boat's ladder just beyond our reach.

Is it a big thing or a little thing, this helmet dive? Well, obviously, it is really very *small potatoes. For me, it is* momentous to be underwater and still alive. But as for Joe — *a man* snug in his designer wetsuit — it is quite clear that Joe leading eight people around a tiny area of seabed in *shallow water is like Damon* Hill driving a lot of lifelong pedestrians around a mini-roundabout in a milk float.

I smile at Joe apologetically through the glass and then stop when I realise the expres*sion may be interpreted* as "I'm about to be sick". Which is an alarming thought. I mean, what if you were sick in the helmet? With such happy thoughts, I finally regain the ladder and clamber back on board. Only then do I realise I should have tried to enjoy the experience. Unfortunately, en*joyment did not seem an* option at the time.

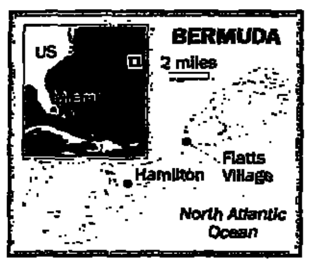
Travellers to Bermuda are not obliged to helmet dive. There are lots of other activi*ties: night life in* the city of Hamilton; arts-and-crafts shopping at the old naval dockyard; glass-bottom boat trips; and incredibly expensive meals outdoors on warm starlit nights, with Atlantic breezes playing in the palms. I even saw an Alan Ayckbourn *farce, performed with surreal* inadequacy at one of the top hotels. But Bermuda is one of the few places where you can go helmet diving — which *makes it sort-of unmissable.*

I cannot remember much about the coral, though I can still do "fish-lips", so it was not a complete waste.

Joe had taught us some sign-language before descent, to indicate coral asleep, coral breathing — but it all looked a bit grey and dusty down there, and the main interest was Joe's efficiency in manoeuvring us into camera positions for the all-important video. My overall sensation remained one of hysterical self-*amazement.*

Helmet diving is a bewilderingly bonkers thing for an aquaphobe to try.

BERMUDA FACT FILE



■ Lynne Truss travelled with Bermuda Tourism and Prestige Holidays. She stayed at Ariel Sands, where a week's B&B starts at £1,212 per person in October, and £899 per person *from November 1 to* December 12 with Prestige (01425 480400). The price includes flights and transfers.
Other operators featuring cottage holidays include Cadogan (01703 332551) and Mainstreet USA (0990 526900).
British Airways (0345 222111) has three flights a week from Gatwick and has World Offers from £299 for October and £279 from November 1 to December 12.

■ Flights are also available via New York with American Airlines (0181-572 5555) and Continental (0800 776464); via Boston with American and with Delta (0800 414767); via Atlanta with Delta; and via *Toronto with Air Canada (0990* 247226).

■ On Bermuda, helmet diving is offered by Bermuda Bell Diving (001 441 292 4434) and Greg Hartley's Under Sea Adventure (441 234 2861). The former charges adults $44 (£27.50) and children $33 (£20.50); the latter charges $48 (£30) and $36 (£22.50). The whole experience takes three hours, including *training and a dive lasting* about half an hour.

■ Tips: The nervous should pack Breathe Right nasal strips.

■ Further information: Bermuda Tourism (0171-771 7001) has a guide on where to dive and other information.

■ Reading: *Insight Guide to Bermuda* (£12.99). The same company also has a *Pocket Guide to Bermuda* (£5.95). *Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit: Bermuda* (£8.99).

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TONY STONE

Islands of dreams: a jetty runs from one of the 1.000 Maldives islands out onto a coral reef. Only 70 of the islands house resorts and a tourism policy restricts development

Castaway among the coral

For **Elizabeth Jane Howard**, the Maldives brought to life childhood fantasies of being shipwrecked, but without any of the discomforts

Our first sight of the Maldives was from the aeroplane early in the morning. More than 1,000 coral islands are strung vertically across the equator, west of Sri Lanka, in the Indian Ocean, and from above they appeared as dark marks rimmed with palest cream and encircled by a wide expanse of aquamarine water set in an inky sea.

As we descended, these colours became clearer, the centres composed of rich greens; the cream sand dazzled, and the aquamarine lagoons became translucent, a rim of lacy white delineating the reefs that separated the lagoons from the deep blue water.

Here were the coral islands that had so enlivened my childhood, looking, from the sky, exactly as I had imagined them when I had read all those books about being castaways and had so longed to be shipwrecked. Far from being wrecked, however, we were to visit two islands that contrive to make their visitors feel like pampered castaways.

Our first hotel was the Soneva Fushi on Kunfunadhoo, one of the larger islands well to the north of Male', the capital — reached by a 40-minute helicopter journey or three hours in a boat.

Of the more than 1,000 islands in the Maldives, only some 70 have resorts on them — and most of these are otherwise uninhabited, for a wise tourism policy started in the early 1970s has limited hotel development to preserve the environment. So on Kunfunadhoo there is only Soneva Fushi, with its 42 villas; they consist of one large double bedroom and a well-appointed bathroom, the latter looking straight into a tiny garden. The villas are set back from the beach amid palms, frangipani and in our case a noble banyan tree.

We skipped lunch and got straight into the sea. The water was like warm silk and clear as glass, and richly inhabited by thousands of different fish, as brilliant as butterflies. Castaways gathered for meals in a large open dining room — it was also possible to eat outside. To reach it we walked along a sandy path still warm from the sun. The first evening there was a barbecue which turned out to be the most successful cooking we experienced at Soneva Fushi. Much of the food was unremarkable, but everything had to be flown or shipped in — mostly from a distance. There was a bar near the dining room where you could drink or play chess or backgammon: you could also hire videos if you were mad enough to feel the need.

IMPACT

From the air, the coral islands appear as lacy rims of white

We felt that simply *being* in a place that was so beautiful and so different used up all our time. Sunsets were voluptuous and operatic: the juicy cries of fruitbats occurred at all hours, and little geckos came out when lamps were lit, to tidy up the insects. There was the occasional mosquito, but there was all the right apparatus for keeping them at bay and we were not bitten at all, although at the cost of no reading in bed. There were *no* flies on the island: it took a day or two to realise how enormously this contributed to our peace and comfort.

The island had its own desalination plant and there seemed to be no shortage of water, hot or cold. There was excellent massage available, both Swedish and shiatsu. There were excursions to other islands and all kinds of watersports. We went on one outing that offered excellent snorkelling, and were joined by a cheerful gang of stingrays the size of occasional tables.

In the evenings, by the restaurant, black-and-white rabbits cavorted rather self-consciously and toyed with pieces of bread or lettuce. We were looked after — extremely well — by a host of small graceful men: Maldivian, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi.

Our second week was on Vabbinfaru, a much smaller island about 20 minutes from Male' by speedboat. Here was one of the Banyan Tree hotels and again the separate thatched huts containing a large bedroom and bathroom. These were set a few yards from the sea and had verandahs, with the rest of the house walled off so that everyone had a private garden.

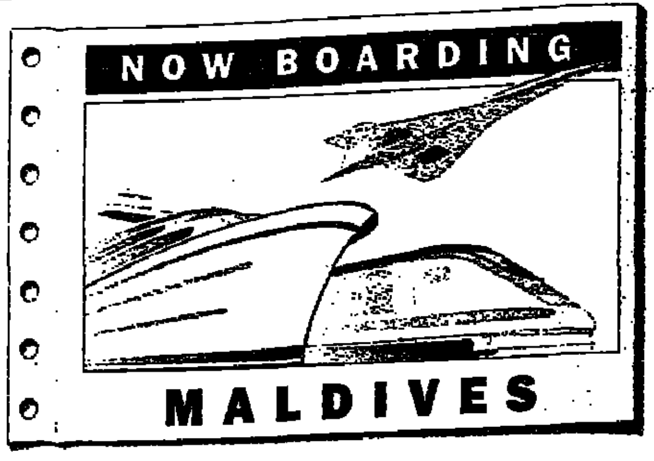
This was a well-run hotel, and the food was much better than it had been in Soneva Fushi: although the ingredients were not very different, they were better prepared. Barbecues and breakfasts were on a par with those at Soneva Fushi, but lunch and dinner was infinitely more enjoyable. Mineral water was free — another bonus since we needed a great deal of it.

The days slipped by in a kind of timeless slow motion: often we felt that we had been on a coral island for ever — sometimes we felt that we had hardly arrived. My daughter Nicola went diving every day but otherwise we made no plans, did not want excursions, were content to become familiar with the sea bed round the island.

One area was covered with sea cucumbers, creatures that look like gigantic fat caterpillars, but if you picked one up it was as light as if it had been made of papier-mâché. Beyond them were the coral gardens where a cloud of humbug damsels fed — beautiful little fish with vertical blue and black stripes. Every evening at six, a gang of stingrays sped in to be fed by one of the gardeners. If you stood in the water they would nudge and bump you for food. When I was a child I had a notebook in which major experiences were recorded: "wore puttees"; "rode an elephant" — that kind of thing. "Bumped by stingrays" would have fitted nicely into that.

But what I shall remember most, what really makes me long to return to the Indian Ocean, is the memory of sitting on the verandah simply watching the vast amazing sky; livid with sunrise, bleached to creamy blues at midday, and then lightly furnished with clouds that were became molten as the sun fell — with the speed of a bounced ball — beyond the horizon, beginning a darkness from which stars started out like diamonds. Every day these things happened, but never quite the same. We did not have time to get used to that spectrum of changing light: I shall have to return.

- *Elizabeth Jane Howard travelled with Elegant Resorts (01244 897888), which specialises in tailor-made holidays. Seven nights at the Banyan Tree costs from £1,505 per person, full board. Seven nights at Soneva Fushi costs from £1,285 per person, B&B, including return flights from London via Dubai with Emirates, and inter-island transfers.*
- *Emirates (0171-808 0808) offers four flights a week to Male' from Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester, via Dubai.*
- *Reading: Guide to Maldives by Royston Ellis (Bradt, £11.95); Maldives (Lonely Planet, £8.99).*



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MALDIVES

Who goes there? People who like sitting on/diving off sand pancakes in the middle of a warm ocean. Not for gourmands/culture buffs or budget travellers.

Getting the ball rolling: Call the Maldives High Commission (0171-224 2135 — but information takes 10 days to arrive).

Perfect timing: Peak season: mid December-early April. Christmas/August: pricey. Monsoon usually June/July, but has varied of late.

Suitcase Strategy: Take: Book, film, sun/insect cream. Bring back: Retail not a strong point except in Male', the capital. Anyway, shopping is stressful, and you are there to de-stress.

Pound in your pocket: £1 = 18.54 rufiyaa. Buy at airport on arrival. Keep receipt if you want to change money back as you leave. Sterling travellers' cheques welcome but US dollars more useful. Prices generally high, but not outrageous.

Turn of phrase: Sri Lankan influence evident in unpronounceable names, such as Boduthakakurufaanu Magu.

Big no-nos: Bringing in alcohol, duty free or otherwise, which will be confiscated at customs. Arriving unannounced on local — as opposed to resort — islands. Picking up coral/shells.

Nasty surprises: Bratwurst and tinned fruit salad (although standards are improving). Expensive/tricky inter-island travel. Some islands are great for diving but hopeless for snorkelling and vice versa — choose carefully.

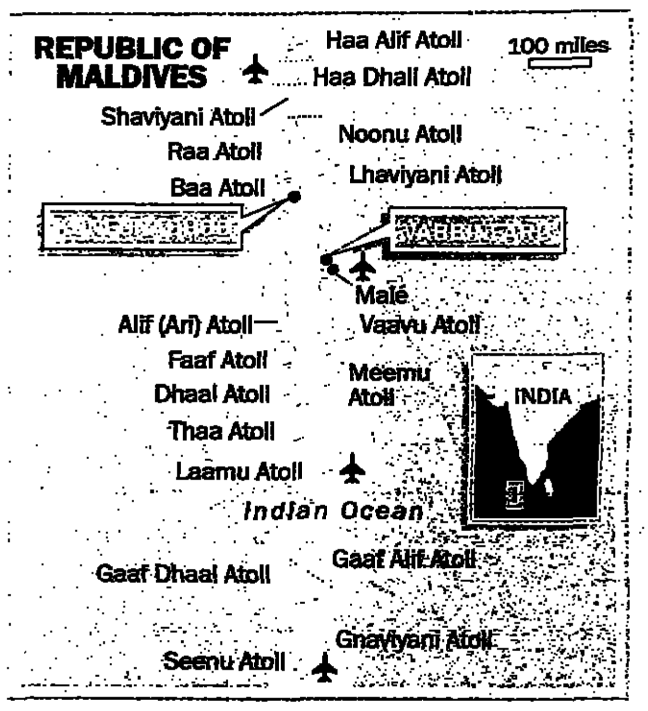
Not to be missed: Bodu Beru drummming-and-dancing nights. Fish barbecues in the sand. "Maldivian sofas" — swinging chairs with room for two.

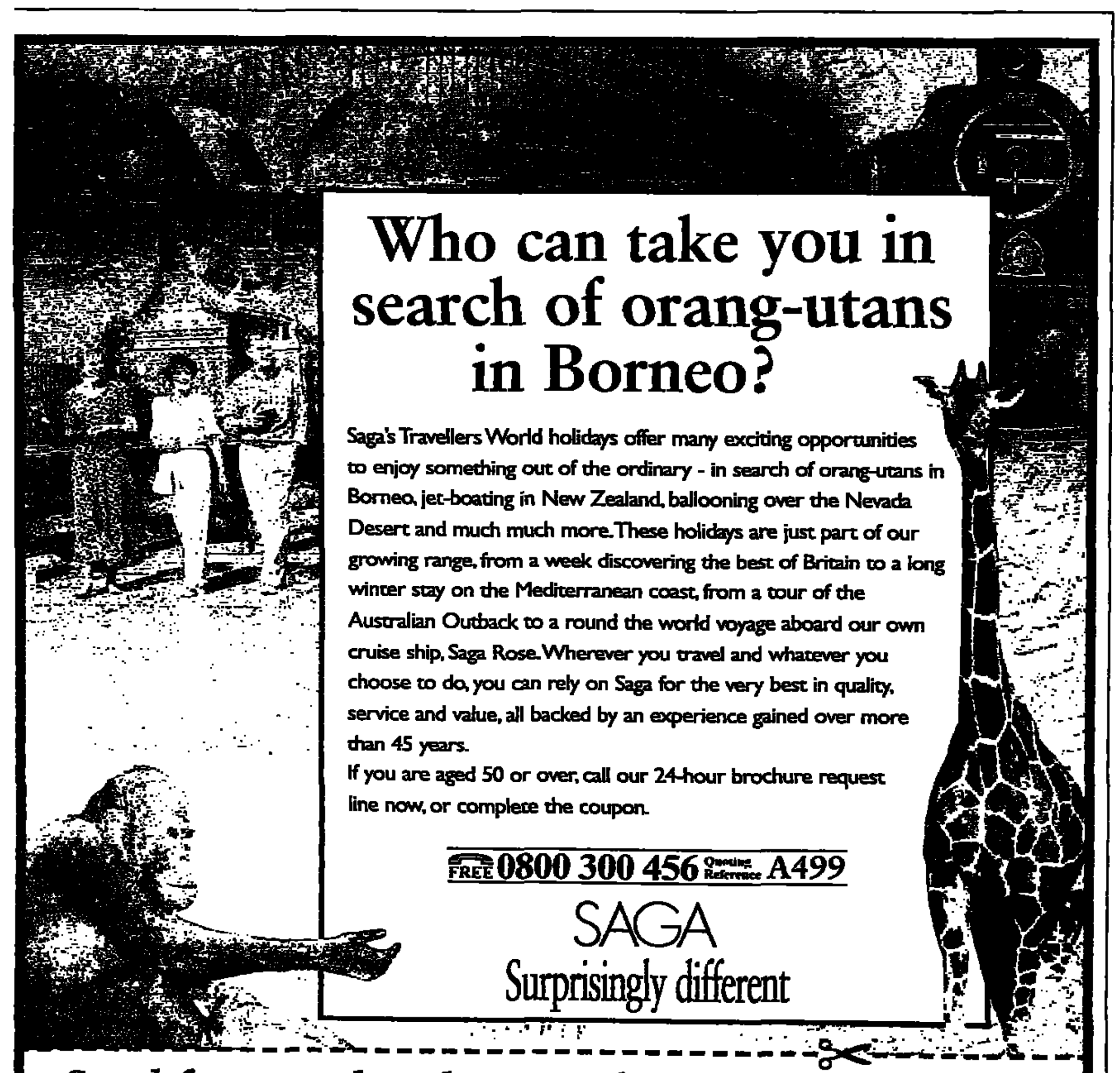
Way to go: Only charters fly direct. November scheduled return flights: Air Lanka (0171-930 4688) via Colombo, £521 (inc UK tax), Emirates (call DNATA Travel 0500 777310) via Dubai, £610 (inc UK tax).

Any good packages? November/December deals: Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) — 14 nights B&B at the ritzy new Kuda Huraa resort (with spa and dive school), £1765pp. Hayes & Jarvis (0181-222 7811) — seven nights half board on Meerufenfushi, £499pp. Maldive Travel (0171-352 2246) — exclusive Nika island for £182 per room per night, plus £152 pp helicopter transfers. Also: Airtours (01706 232323), Cosmos (0161-480 5799), Kuoni (01306 734000), Thomson (0990 502399).

Dull but essential: No visa for stays of under 30 days. Departure tax $10. No jabs required.

SOPHIE CAMPBELL





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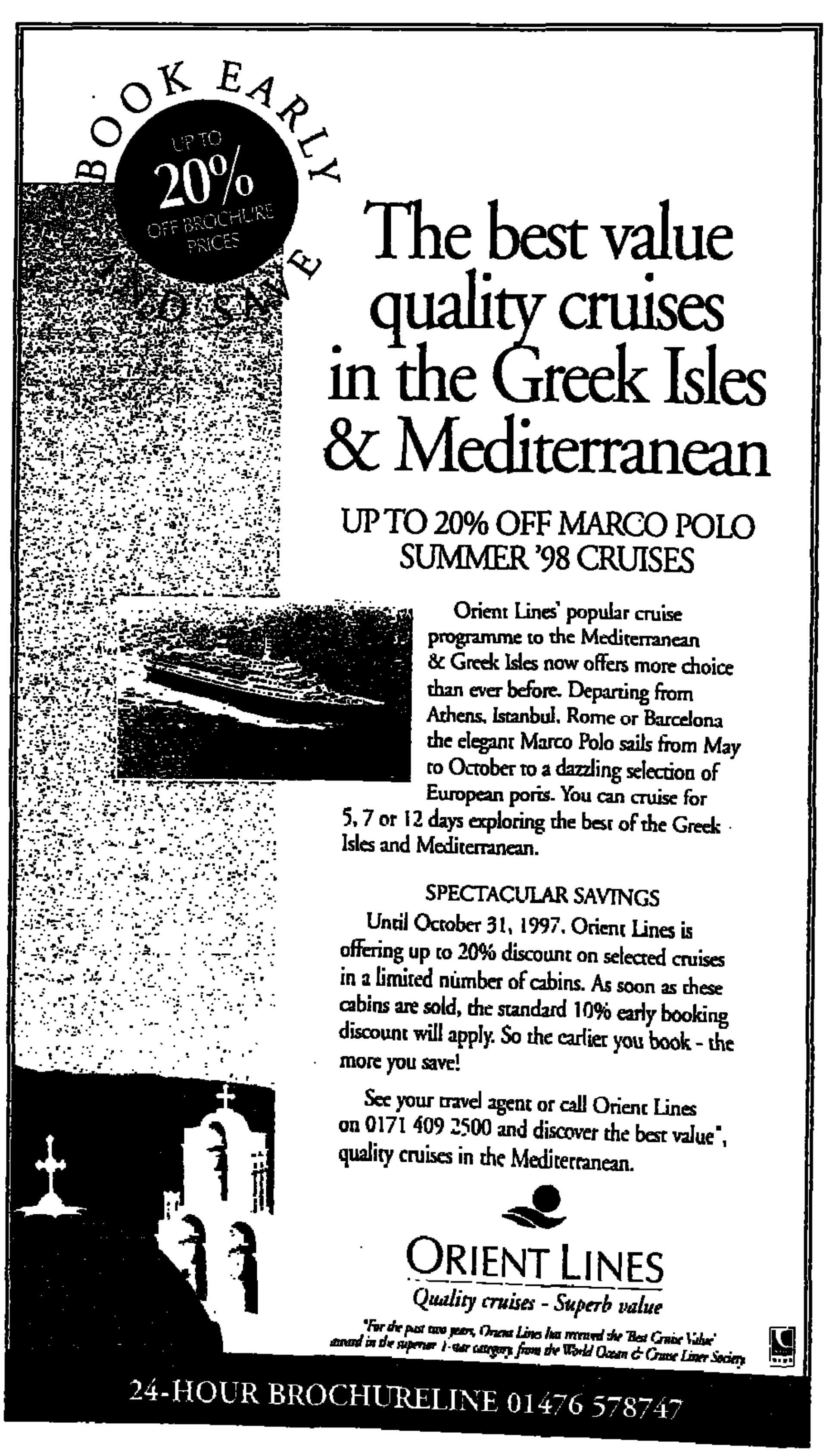

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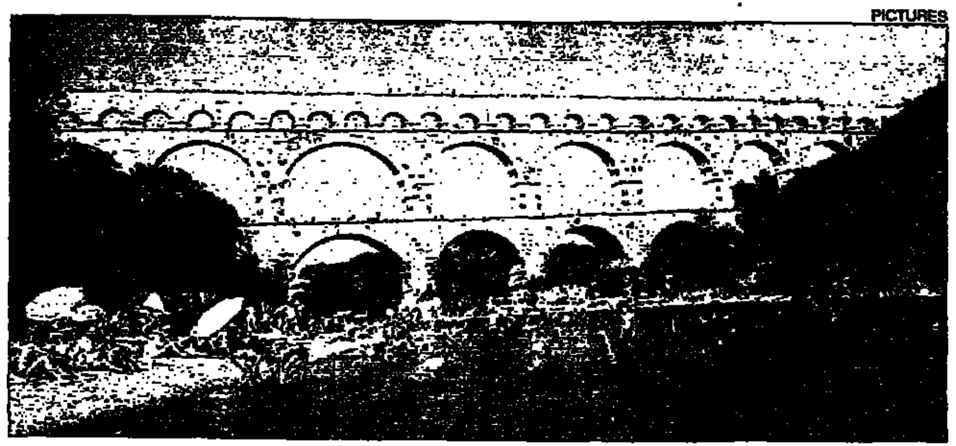
هكذا من الأصل

Gareth Huw Davies steps back 2,000 years on a drive through Languedoc Roussillon, southern France

But the Romans got here first


PICTURES

The Pont du Gard, with its three great lines of arches, is a wonder of antiquity

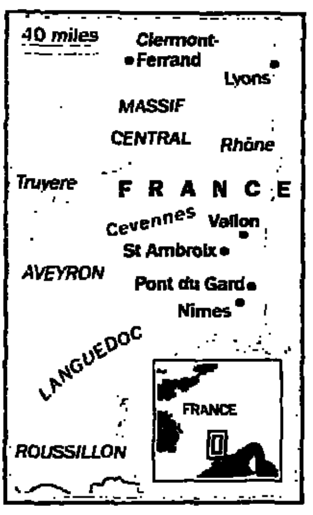
We took the high road into Languedoc Roussillon over an elbow of the Massif Central. If there must be new roads through sensational countryside, then let them soar and swoop as excitingly as this one. We were as high as Snowdon. My children, Laura, 15, and 13-year-old Tim, the back seat navigators, rattled off regular roadside altitude checks.

Too late we spotted the *aire* — that ubiquitous roadside leg-stretching site — where we should have stopped, for each parking spot was shaded by a towering new stone megalith, erected by the local authorities in imitation of a nearby neolithic site.

And all the while, on a more horizontal keel, the single-track railway north to Clermont-Ferrand shadowed us. We knew where it was heading, but imagine being an uninformed passenger on that line and, ten miles north, suddenly tightroping over the Truyère at Garabit on Eiffel's wondrous iron viaduct.

The French region is a huge thing. Languedoc Roussillon starts here, below the Auvergne, channels straight down central southern France, then veers to the west in a wide band rather like an inverted comma to the Spanish border. It ends up as the most southerly region, barring Corsica, and takes in half of the French Mediterranean coast.

Languedoc Roussillon may lack the instant product identification in the British mind of, say, Provence, directly to the east. But it comes fully-fitted with the same seductive sensory effects of the Midi — cicadas in surround-sound as you drive, nightingales on the fringe of country campsites and the potent perfume of southern flora.



We followed the bends for half a day down the Tarn Gorges, then cut across Robert Louis Stevenson's donkey route in the Cévennes, the southern margin of wild, elevated central France, and popped out on the other side at St Ambroix into the undeniable south. After 250 miles of wine-free France, we saw our first vineyard since the Loire.

Our gite was at St Christol de Rodières, some 25 miles north of Avignon. From our eyrie perch we looked over grand cru vineyards across to the Rhône valley and the mistral-scourged Mt Ventoux.

In ideal conditions, we were within eyeshot of the Alps. One feature jarred — a nuclear power station simmering on the edge of the Rhône. Our hostess made a virtue of it. "It's our barometer," she said, indicating the wind direction by the slant of its vapours.

Our hilltop was an important marker on a regular fly-past. By the poolside one afternoon I spotted, directly overhead, a flight of half a dozen bee-eaters, floppy fliers in jazzy harlequin livery, binding themselves together with a flutey roundelay. A few hours later they struggled back, replete from whatever nutritious cache they had been visiting down in the valley.

We were within striking distance of what must be the widest range of cultural achievement in the western world, perhaps anywhere. To the south, the many points of inspiration for the impressionists and cubists. Twenty miles to the north, newly discovered marvels you will never see in the original.

Jean-Marie Chauvet and two colleagues discovered some new caves near Vallon Pont d'Arc on December 18, 1994. Their torches picked out walls decorated with a 20,000-year-old gallery of beasts, among the oldest on earth. It was instantly obvious that visitors must never be admitted after the disaster of Lascaux, where human breath destroyed the very wonders human eyes beheld.

Even now Chauvet and his team are working on an exact replica of the caves, a virtual reality solution. In the meantime, they rushed out an impressive exhibition in Vallon town, with video footage and recreated cave walls.

Even in facsimile the animal paintings are awesome. One, in particular, astonished me for its composition. A line of lions, head alongside head, are spring-loaded for action, like Olympic sprinters poised on the blocks.

Orange, just east of the Rhône in western Provence, has the best preserved theatre in the whole of the Roman world. Pont du Gard, with its three great lines of arches, is a wonder of antiquity. You can follow the course of the water in surviving off-cuts of channel to Uzès, — splendid Saturday market — 15 miles to the west. And on to elegant Nimes. "Nimes: La Rome Français" is still a standard tourist text on the bookstands. But we found a city recasting its received persona. Not only did the whole world think of Nimes as exclusively Roman, so did the tourism college from which our guide graduated recently. Now the image is being updated and Nimes is promoted thus: "2,000 years of Latin culture", and even "Nimes, French Madrid", for its *férias* and bullfighting.

You still need a copy of *I Claudius* by Robert Graves to fix the opening acts — the amphitheatre, the finest of its sort, built in Augustus's reign; the Maison Carrée, best preserved Roman temple, dedicated to his sons Caius and Lucius, murdered by the satanic Livia.

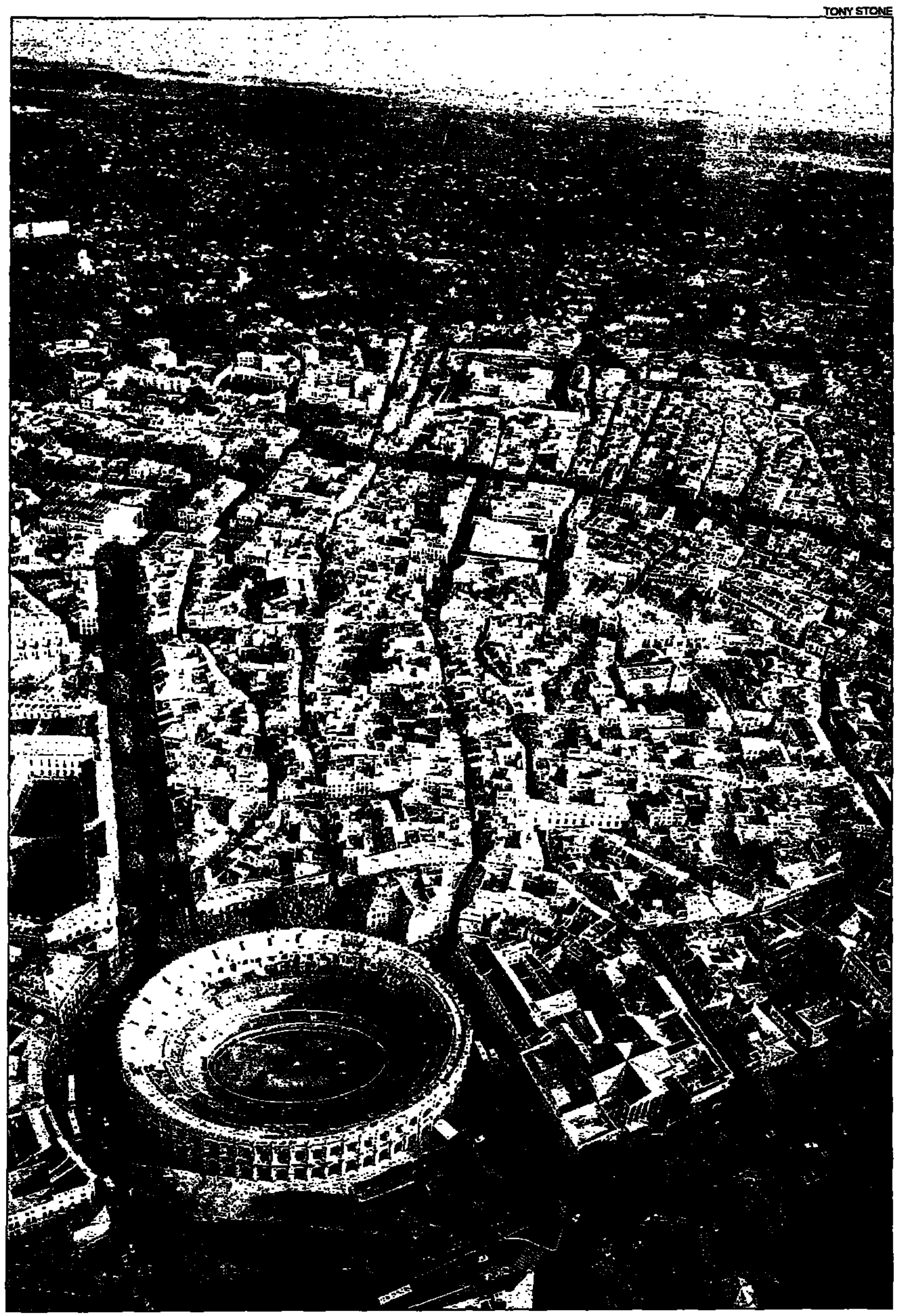
To mark the Middle Ages link, our guide unlocked a succession of massive wooden doors leading into the courtyards of *hotels particuliers* — merchants' mansions. Behind these doors Protestant grandees hid their ostentation. Today these beautifully composed set pieces in stone — all the classical architectural flourishes under a winding staircase — are cool havens from the heat of the street outside, with their tinkling fountains and torrents of greenery tumbling off the parapets.

The treat for the family, after so much culture, was a meal out on the last evening. We tested and disproved yet again the theory that you cannot eat out in France for less than a fortune: on the contrary, the strength of the pound now leads to some good deals. The opinion from the back of the car was that we try Le Mas de Trescouvieux, just east of Laval St Roman, as a reward for planting so many insistent signposts among the vines.

It was a farmhouse kitchen with outdoor seats and any wine you liked so long as it was red and came in an unmarked bottle from the patron's own cave. Four courses cost us £63 for five.

A day later, we were heading home on the Aignon to Calais motorail. Rattling along the banks of the Rhône, we passed the same power station we had seen from our gite, gently simmering. Somewhere up there, among that dense greenery, our hostess was glancing down to take tomorrow's weather forecast.

TONY STONE



Architectural wonder: Aerial view of the Roman amphitheatre at Nimes, built in the reign of Caesar Augustus

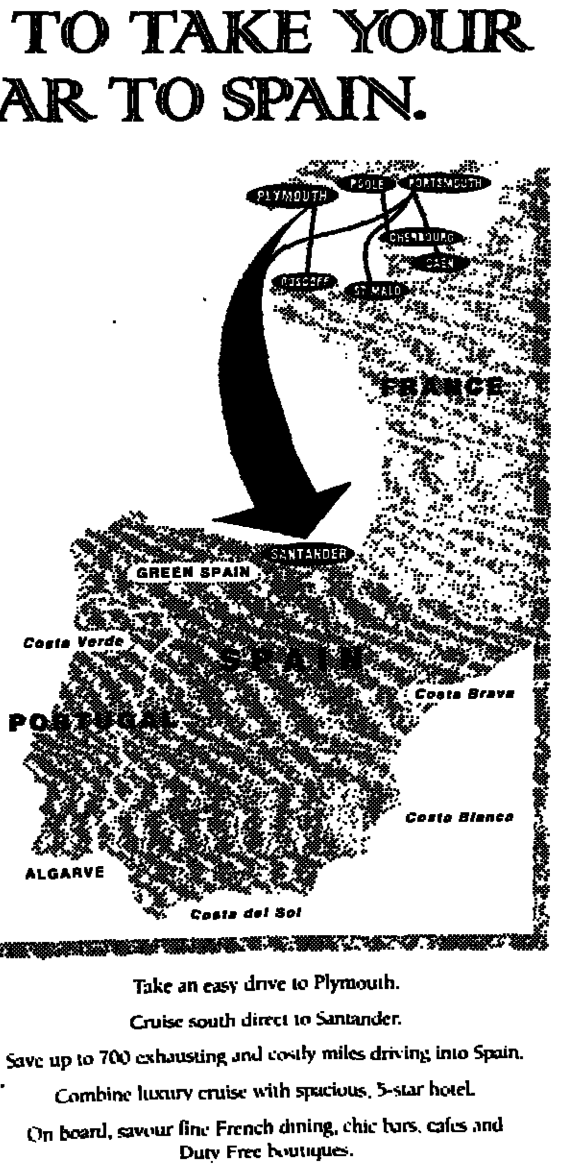
FACT FILE

■ Gareth Huw Davies travelled with the French Tourist Board, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (0891 244123, 50p a minute).

■ How to get there: Flights from Luton to Nice with easyJet (0990 292929) cost from £98. British Airways (0345 222111) Heathrow-Nice flights cost from £161. Hiring a mid-size car from Nice for a week costs £135, all-inclusive, from Hertz (0990 906090) and from £146, all-inclusive, from Avis (0990 900500).

■ Where to stay: Several companies specialise in French gites and most have late availability in October, when prices are lower than in high summer and the weather in southern France can still be good.
VFB HOLIDAYS (01242 240340) offers more than 400 French gites. For example, a cottage with a private pool in the village of Rivières-de-Theyrargues, six miles from St Ambroix, costs £579 for a week, £479 for an additional week, from October 4 until January. It sleeps six adults: the price includes accommodation, ferry crossing for a car and two passengers and travel insurance.
GITES DE FRANCE, offered through Brittany Ferries in the UK (0990 360360), has a gite at Cuxac Cabardès, near Carcassone in southern Languedoc. A week costs £48.38 per person based on eight sharing, including return ferry crossing for two cars with Brittany Ferries from Portsmouth to Caen.
The company also offers the *Gite d'Interlude* programme from October until May: weekend breaks at properties in Brittany, Normandy and the Loire Valley. Prices start at £43 per night per gite, based on a minimum of two nights' stay, but irrespective of gite size.
CHEZ NOUS TRAVEL (01484 682503) has a week in Agde in a house sleeping six for £300; or a week in a restored 800-year-old village house in Roquebrun, sleeping six to nine, for £320, in October. Ferry crossings start at £105 for a car and five passengers.

■ Reading: *The South of France: Provence, Côte d'Azur and Languedoc-Roussillon*, from the Cadogan series (£14.99). *Provence, Languedoc and Côte d'Azur*, from the Independent Travellers series (Moorland, £8.99).



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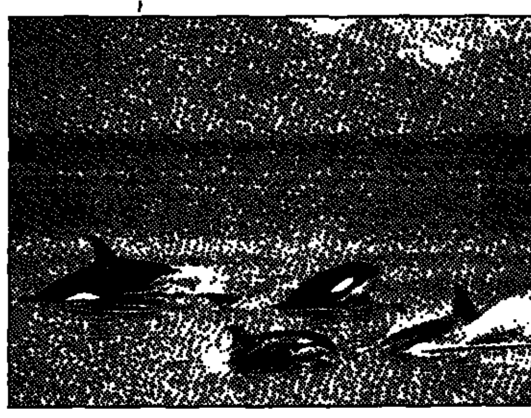

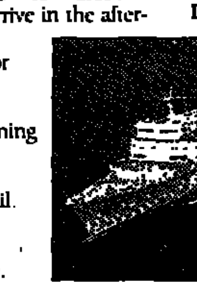

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A VOYAGE ALONG THE ALASKAN COASTLINE ABOARD THE SS UNIVERSE EXPLORER

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THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Vancouver with British Airways. Arrive in the afternoon and drive to the Georgian Court Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.
Day 2 Vancouver. Morning city excursion. In the afternoon embark SS *Universe Explorer* and sail.
Day 3 At sea. Cruising British Columbia's beautiful Inside Passage.
Day 4 Wrangell. Once ruled by Britain and Russia, Wrangell is one of the oldest and most historical towns in Alaska.
Day 5 Juneau. The capital of Alaska is accessible only by sea or air. Walk the winding streets, shop, visit the excellent State Museum and Governor's Mansion.
Day 6 Skagway. Navigate the Lynn Canal viewing mountain ranges, hanging glaciers and wildlife. In Skagway enjoy the 1890's Gold Rush spirit.
Day 7 Glacier Bay. This morning we will sail into Glacier Bay, a summer haunt of the humpback whales. Cruise along the West Arm close to tiny islands where puffins and guillemots congregate, and passing cliffs where kittiwakes roost.
Day 8 Cruising the Gulf of Alaska. The scenery is dramatic and awe inspiring.
Day 9 Seward. This ice free port is situated on the Kenai Peninsula. The area is immensely rich in wildlife and the nearby national park is a vast area of 670,000 acres, where some of the world's largest tide-water glaciers can be found.
Day 10 Valdez. After a morning cruising call into the port of Valdez, a lovely spot where snow-capped peaks form a wonderful backdrop to green meadows.
Day 11 Cruising the Yakutat Bay. In 1986 Hubbard Glacier went through a surge cycle, advancing by as much a 130 feet a day. Eventually an ice dam formed and burst with enormous power. Today we will cruise past this awe inspiring site and enjoy time cruising in the sheltered waters looking out for sea lions.
Day 12 Sitka. Once the capital of Tsarist Russia in the New World, Sitka was the site of the historic transfer of Alaska to the United States.
Day 13 Ketchikan. Alaska's first city and the salmon capital of the world. Clinging to the side of Deer Mountain, Ketchikan is a colourful port of call.
Day 14 At sea.
Day 15 Victoria. Situated on Vancouver Island, Victoria is a delightful city well known for its British atmosphere. One of the finest botanical gardens in the world can be found here.
Day 16 Vancouver to London (Heathrow). Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Georgian Court Hotel or similar where day use rooms have been reserved. Remainder of day at leisure until transfer to the airport in time for the late evening British Airways to London.
Day 17 London (Heathrow). Arrive in the morning.

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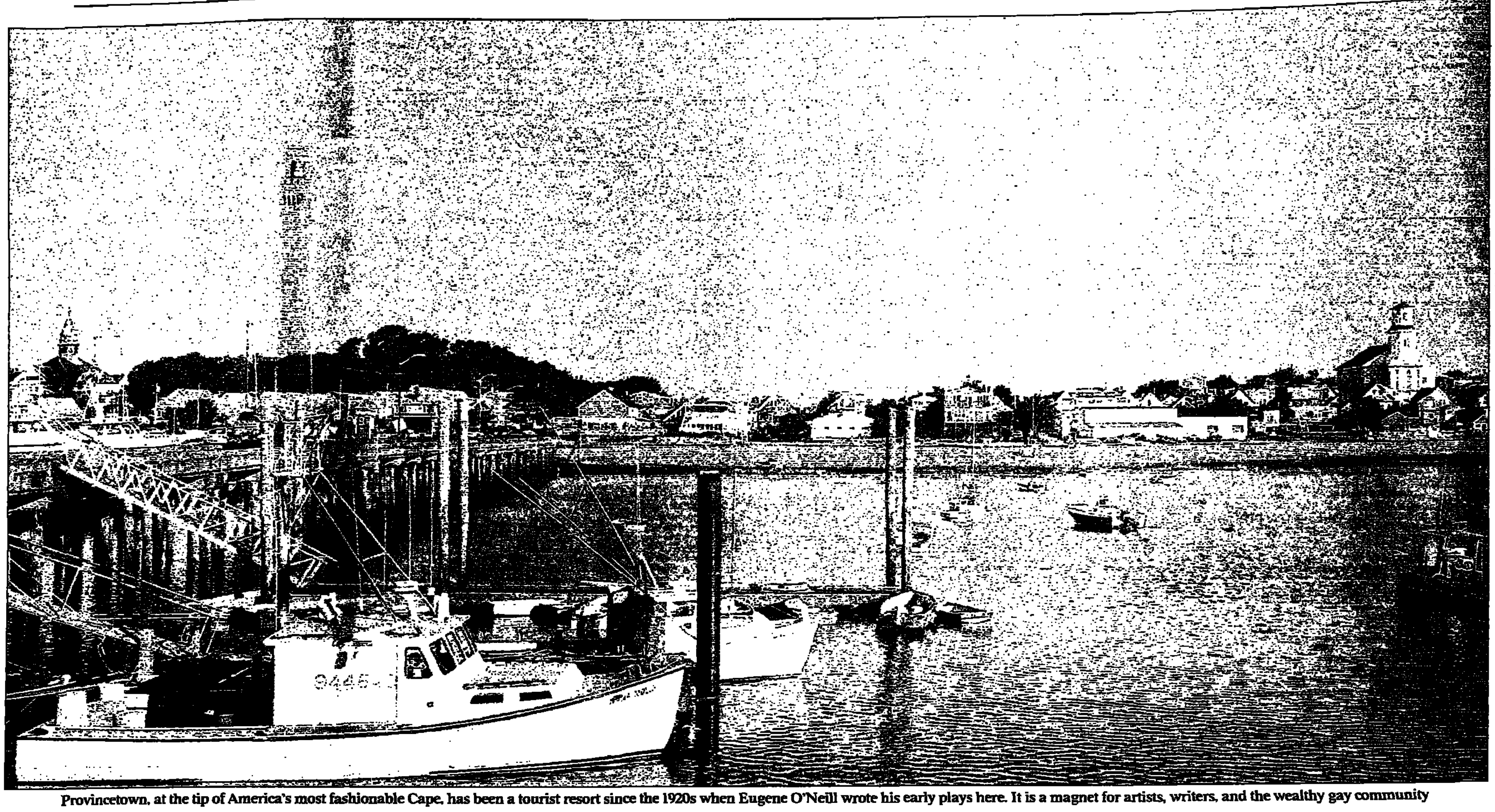
Peter Stothard on leopardskin loincloths and other theatrical memorabilia at the tip of Cape Cod

GENE PEACH

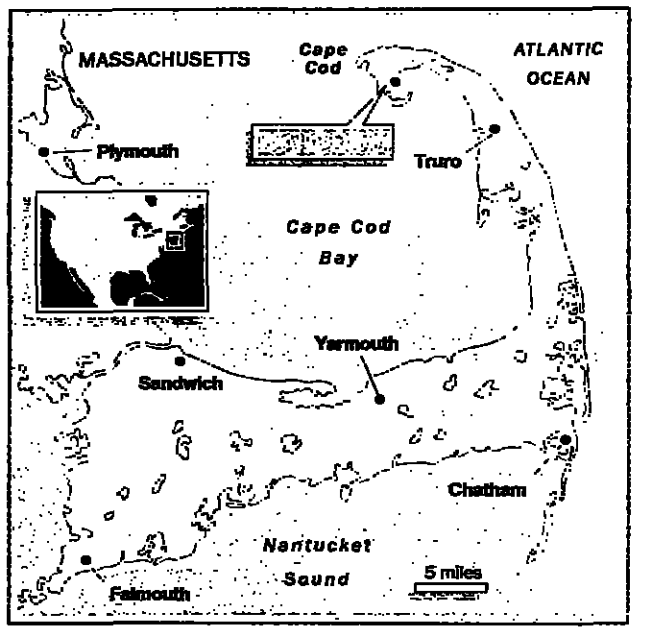


Provincetown, at the tip of America's most fashionable Cape, has been a tourist resort since the 1920s when Eugene O'Neill wrote his early plays here. It is a magnet for artists, writers, and the wealthy gay community

Long day's journey into the bay

Eugene O'Neill had his good days and his bad days while he was making his name as the father of American theatre in Provincetown, Cape Cod. Even on a good day, when his work was going well and he was partying naked except for a leopardskin loincloth and an orange wig, he could thrash out at over-inquisitive journalists and consign his long-suffering wife to the gutter. On a bad day his alcoholic rages were not even fit to be research work for *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, the posthumous masterpiece on which his reputation rests. He would sit on the sand-dunes, urinating into half-full prohibition-priced whisky bottles and drinking the contents as cocktails.

Provincetowners today, like most people with famous sons, prefer to remember the best parts of the good days. Since the 1920s they have created a prosperous tourist resort at the tip of America's most fashionable Cape and made it a magnet for artists, writers, the wealthy local gay communities as well as for Europeans seeking the place where New World drama first threw off the chains of the old.

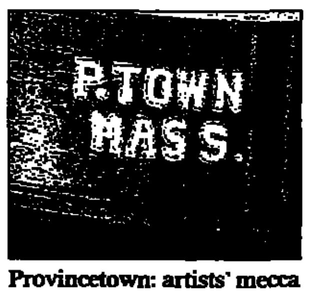


If O'Neill were to return today to the little town where he wrote his early plays, he would find men in loincloths and wigs cavorting every night of the week. He might note with disquiet that men and women in gay-pride T-shirts have taken many of the places left by his 1920s team of wife-swappers, bootleggers and macho-bohemians. But the playwright would still find his works being performed here, in the same sort of grey clapboard wharf-buildings, before small but no-less-appreciative crowds.

The only trouble for the local hero would come if he were to try to replay some of his bad times. Provincetown today is a place where those who prize self-expression also know how to behave. Raised voices are very much not the thing. Etiquette is a street art. Manicured gardening — no more than seven convolvulus blooms per drainpipe — is the grandest of arts. Dogs have to be lurchers or pugs and wear at least a thousand dollars worth of ethnic jewellery.

Watercolour is the painter's medium of choice. When seven people eating a $250 dinner order a fourth bottle of wine it is time for the manager to sound a none-too-subtle claxon. Even running in the streets seems somehow frowned upon — unless it is athletic running, ideally by groups in neatly-matched turquoise boxer shorts.

The theatre where O'Neill's plays were performed has long been lost to the waves of Provincetown bay. The Provincetown Players were nothing if not a fissiparous and itinerant crowd: the idea of any permanent memorial would have seemed to them absurd. But the sense of theatre remains strong.



Provincetown: artists' mecca

The centre of the town is built of short wharfs which jut out into the sea. Some have collapsed for ever, while others have been converted into accommodation for visitors. The scenery for the players was kept not above the stage (too precarious) or at the side (no room) but under the boards of the piers themselves, barely scraping the water surface at high tide. The performance areas were cramped and intimate — just like the jumbles of rooms that are now so much sought after for let. In August the "No Vacancy" signs along Commercial Street and Bradford (the two thoroughfares that mark out the town) are even more prevalent than the plovers and sanderlings that play along the beaches.

Visitors to Provincetown who are searching for a more serious slice of American history may be disappointed. A hotel parking-lot on the edge of town is the site where the Pilgrim Fathers first landed the *Mayflower* in America. What they found was a barren sandbar and they did not stay long before leaving for their first settlement at Plymouth across the bay.

Modern tourists, therefore, who want to recreate the lives of the Puritan settlers, eat olde worlde food and talk to actors in 17th century English can do so further down the Cape at the popular Plimoth Plantation, where they will find a mass of educational attractions, combining obsessive period detail with compulsory political correctness about native Americans.

In Provincetown there is a tall Mayflower Memorial, modelled earlier this century on a tower in Siena, but, in every other respect, players are preferred to Puritans. This is a self-consciously artistic community — even when its population rises from 5,000 to 50,000 in the summer. The main bookstore, which feminist pilgrims claim may once have been the home of Sylvia Plath, contains shelves of literary first editions where normally there might be horoscopes and greeting cards.

The gossip is of Norman Mailer and Susan Sontag. The restaurants have to be as competitive in their salad-arangements as any in Manhattan. Holidaying New York painters come here — and can be just the slightest bit patronising about the local artists who sell sea-and-clapboard watercolours around the east end galleries. Even the chambermaid in your wharf is likely to be working on a reportorial novel: *From Dust To Dust. Observations from the Bed-Changing Business.*

There is still, however, a lively strain of old Englishness on this end zone of Cape Cod. There are houses called Clovelly, Lands End and the Lizard: there are towns called Truro and Falmouth.

It looks a little like Cornwall and there is some of that Cornish sense of separateness and individuality. The life and the buildings are more precarious than in the west of England. There is no place with the solid charm of Fowey, no rock like St Michael's Mount. But the beaches and the bristling dunes of pine are vast by comparison and criss-crossed by miles of bicycle tracks.

At the lowest of low tides almost the whole of Provincetown Bay is empty of sea and there are acres of sand and starfish stretching over to the lighthouse point, a place for expensive dogs to play baseball and their owners to build their bodies, dream of their future theatrical triumphs, or at least decide on their next fine-dining experience.

PROVINCETOWN FACT FILE

■ **Getting there:** It is easiest to travel to Provincetown via Boston. Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747) has special fares to Boston from £198, plus £35 taxes, for travel by December 12 (if booked by October 1). British Airways (0345 222111) has a World Offer price to Boston from £199 plus taxes, for travel between October 1-31. Prices then drop to £179 until December 12. To obtain these prices, tickets must be purchased by October 1.
It is a two and a half hour drive from Boston to Provincetown, or you can fly with Cape Air (001 508 771 6944). Prices start at $142 (£90) return for a seven-day advance purchase ticket.

■ Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) has fly-drive holidays to New England from £439 per person (£399 after October 15), including flights and car hire. Taxes and insurance add between £21-£25 a day.

■ Osprey Holidays (0131-557 1555) has fly-drive holidays to Boston in October from £465 per person. The company will feature Provincetown in its 1998 brochure, to be published in December.

■ **Where to stay:** New England Country Homes (01798 869020) has properties close to Provincetown. For example, in Truro, eight miles away, a cottage for four for two weeks until October 25 costs £1,176 per person, including flights, car hire, insurance and a night outside Boston.

Accommodation in Provincetown is divided between small hotels and cottage/apartment complexes. All are small, and parking nearby may be difficult, so check when booking. It is advisable to book well in advance for next summer. A list of accommodation is available from the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce (Box 1017), Provincetown, MA 02657 (001 508 487 3424).

■ **When to go:** The New England Fall, when the leaves turn and the region is ablaze with gold and russet colours, starts around now and peaks over the next two or three weeks. Better colours can be seen the further north you go.

■ **Further information:** The older houses were floated to their current sites from the outer sandbank in the 19th century. Look for blue-wave plaques. Provincetown Repertory Theatre (001 508 487 0600). Provincetown Art Association (001 508 487 1750).

■ **Reading:** Architectural guide and other information in *Provincetown Guide* from Shank Painter publishing, 650 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657 (001 508 487 9169). *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, by Eugene O'Neill (Nick Hern Books, £6.99).

WALTER BIBIKOW

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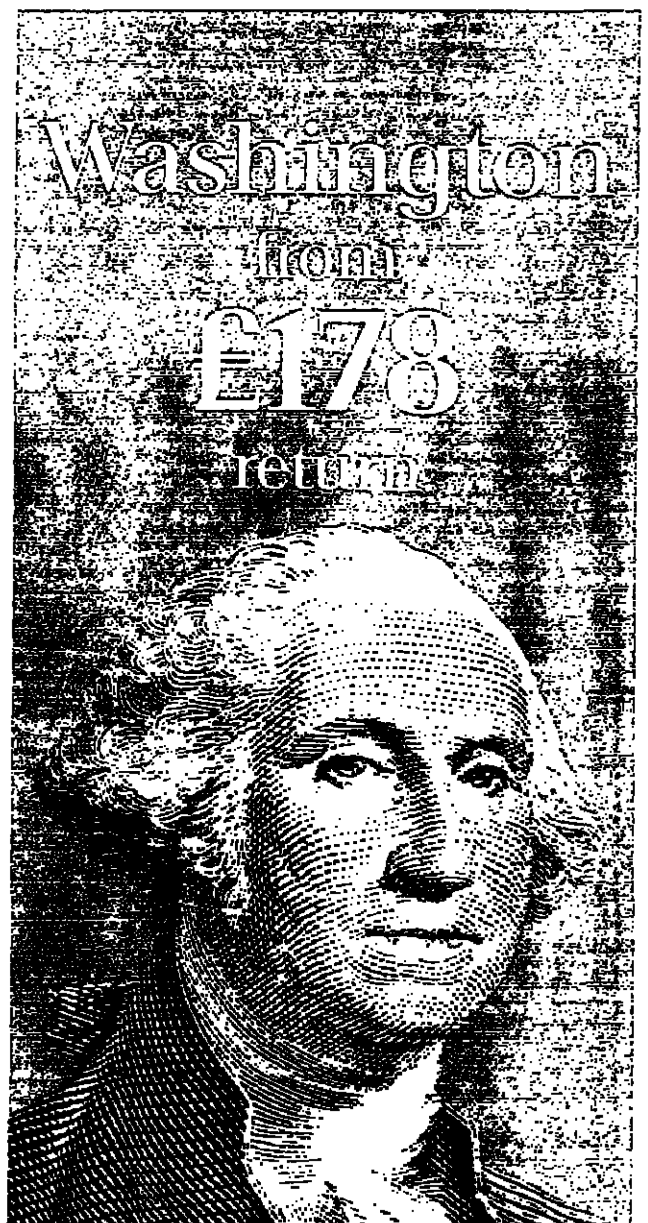

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هكذا من الاهالي

When the Boeing gets tough . . .

Never mind trainspotting, planespotting is best, says

Oliver Bennett

GILL ALLEN

Planespotters on the Skyview balcony at Gatwick. Dedication is required. "The ultimate object is to see every passenger aircraft built, and as you can never complete this task, you will always be thwarted"

A Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 taxies out to the runway. It is a routine occurrence to most of us, at best bearing a mere *frisson* of fear, excitement and expectation.

But to the small crowd of aeroplane spotters who keep a vigil at the Skyview platform above Gatwick Airport's South Terminal, it is a moment of high arousal. Up leaps this fraternity of flying fanatics to their feet with their one-way radios, binoculars and cameras swinging. They rush to the balcony where they look, listen, jot notes. The plane takes off in a whoosh of kerosene, and the spotters visibly relax until the next major departure or arrival.

Planespotting is an increasingly popular pastime. On the weekday morning when I visited Skyview, there were 30 or more spotters, and many more arrive at weekends.

We all know about trainspotting — the very term has become a metaphor for any pastime that requires obsessive scrutiny and attention to detail, be it record-collecting or drug abuse. Unfairly perhaps, it invites trendy scorn. But the spotting of aeroplanes — surely that is a different matter: more global and glamorous, like whale-watching as opposed to bird-watching?

Aficionados do not think so: they tend to spot both trains and planes and see no hierarchical difference between the two. And they are sensitive to criticism: several spotters I approached at Skyview refused to talk, possibly suspecting that fun was going to be poked at them. Perish the thought.

Skyview has a café, a bookshop, a few Internet terminals, an historic aircraft exhibit, a flight simulator and a little cinema. This package costs £4.50 for adults, but planespotters can get roof access without the trimmings for just £1.50, and they tend to stay all day. So what drives these monomaniacs? On a breezy, bright autumn day at Skyview, I met Roger Wright, a market researcher from Ealing, west London, who cited childhood experience as a key factor. "I grew up in Cambridge with the planes from Marshall's airport flying over my house," he says, "and I've been fascinated ever since." But Mr Wright does not stop at planes: he is fond of "all transport systems", particularly light aircraft and steam trains. "Every plane has its own character," he insists. "They are like people in that respect." Yes, as far as spotters are concerned, planes are people too.

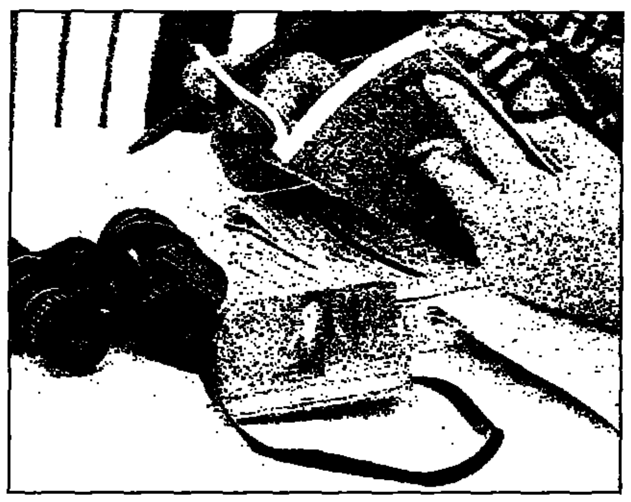
'There is beauty in seeing big airplanes land and take off. Every plane has its own character'

Planespotters often have a radio, with which they can listen to air traffic control, usually through an earpiece. "You can hear everything that's coming," explains Mr Wright. "I've picked up one or two pilots lost in bad weather, but they seem to get here eventually." It is entirely legal, he informs me, as it is only one-way and does not interfere with signals. "Lucky" spotters can hear emergencies happen in real-time, though these are mercifully few. An earnest spotter also needs binoculars or telescope, a notebook and — crucially — one of the great texts, such as *Airlines*, an exhaustive list of airliner stocks published by The Aviation Hobby Shop. For it seems that planespotting is driven less by the need to celebrate the awesome power and aesthetic of aeronautic technology, and more by a clerical mission to log aeroplanes.

"There is a beauty in seeing big airplanes land and take off," says Mr Wright. "I could watch them land all day, and there is a certain aesthetic appeal in the colour schemes and design." But to him, planespotting is more "a question of observing the insignia to find out who owns what, recording the type of aircraft and where they go." Any unusual carrier has a planespotter reaching for his binoculars. This particular morning, Mr Wright had spied Royal Nepal Airlines, odd little airlines from Kazakhstan and Turkey, and a couple of new charters. British Airways' new livery was also exciting a gang of spotters. "We like older planes, as you won't see them much longer," says Mr Wright. "To see a Boeing 707 at Heathrow is of major interest."

Gatwick, the key charter airport, has unexpected treasures such as charters carrying footballers and orchestras: to identify these, the grapevine goes into action so spotters know what is happening when planes appear off-timetable. And new products get them going. The Boeing 777 is now boringly established, and the spotters are more excited by the Airbus 340, one of the newest in the air.

Spotters also seem to spend their days off in pursuit of planes. Wright, who claims to be able to identify helicopters by sound, lives near Heathrow and picks up on air traffic control from home. Indeed, the Wright family are looking for a new house. "When I view a property, I ask 'is there any aircraft traffic coming over?'" says Wright. "The estate agents play it down. I don't tell them that I *prefer* it if there are planes overhead."



Radios, cameras and binoculars are essential kit

Much of planespotting's appeal is down to the completist drive of the collector. "The idea is to see all the planes in a particular fleet," attests Stan Fletcher, a retired railwayman from Maidenhead, who had come to Skyview for the day with two friends. "In fact, the ultimate object is to see every passenger aircraft built, and as you can never quite complete this task, you will always be thwarted." It is precisely that sense of having an infinite task that drives the spotters, says Mr Fletcher, who adds that they are also kept on their toes by the increasing inventiveness of the aviation industry, which is constantly developing new types of planes.

The John Menzies shop at Skyview is dedicated to planespotters' needs, with model kits, viewing and listening equipment, as well as videos like the *Flight in Cockpit* series, which gives the viewer a pilot's eye view, and a similarly aviation-obsessed bookshelf. This includes slightly macabre titles such as *Wreckchasing*, *Black Box*, *Crashes and Crash Sites* and *Emergency — Crisis on the Flight Deck* — books hardly likely to be found in the shops down in the terminal.

These do not sell quite as well as the books of lists such as *Commercial Aircraft* and *Jane's Airport Recognition Guide*, but the market seems to be thriving. "Money is no object for some of these people," says manager Simon Hussey, who says the shop is constantly "chock-a-block" with spotters who often spend over £30 on a book.

Like many of us, Hussey is baffled at the zealousness with which planespotters perform what looks awfully like unpaid catalogue work. "I said to one, what do you do with the numbers?" he recalls. "What pleasure do you get out of it?" No satisfying answer came. But planespotting is a hobby that aspires to be a profession — tellingly, Fletcher refers to his fellow spotters as "colleagues" — and many planespotters either work in aviation or the railways.

There is an addictive quality to it, which Mr Fletcher's friend Chris Church, a personnel manager from Maidenhead, is quick to acknowledge. "It's my fix," he says. "The people at work take the mickey out of me something rotten. But I find it relaxing, something to do." And it should be said that there is something meditative and fraternal about planespotting, despite a small internecine rivalry between telescope and binocular users, of which Mr Church and Mr Fletcher are illustrations. "I prefer telescopes," says Mr Church, standing at the balcony like a pastiche Admiral Nelson surveying his frigates. Mr Fletcher, a binocular-man: "Can't get on with them."

Most spotters are men, but at Skyview there are a few women around. Mike and Sylvia Fullylove had travelled down from Watford, where they are fortunate enough to live beneath the West Drayton Holding Pattern. Was Sylvia there under duress? "It's a day out, and I like aeroplanes," she pleads. But planespotting is clearly Mr Fullylove's province, for it was he that held all the looking, listening and recording kit. "It bit me as a kid," says the retired print worker. "I was in the RAF and became interested in planes. It becomes a habit, but it winds you down. It's good for stress."

And lo, then comes the unmistakeable noise of an approaching jet and there is no time to journey further into the planespotting soul. A new Canadian charter plane has been spotted, and the denizens of Skyview leap to their feet, lenses trained into the haze.

PLANESPOTTERS' FACT FILE

Oliver Bennett goes skywatching

- **Gatwick:** The Skyview spectators gallery in the South Terminal overlooks the whole airport. A coffee shop has Internet facilities, and a Herald commercial aircraft is open as an exhibit. A cinema repeatedly shows *A Day in the Life of the Airport* and there is an aircraft simulation ride (separate price: £2). Gallery admission: £1.50 adults, children 75p. All facilities, including simulator: £4.50, £3 children. A family ticket (two adults, two children) costs £10. Open daily from 9am-5pm.

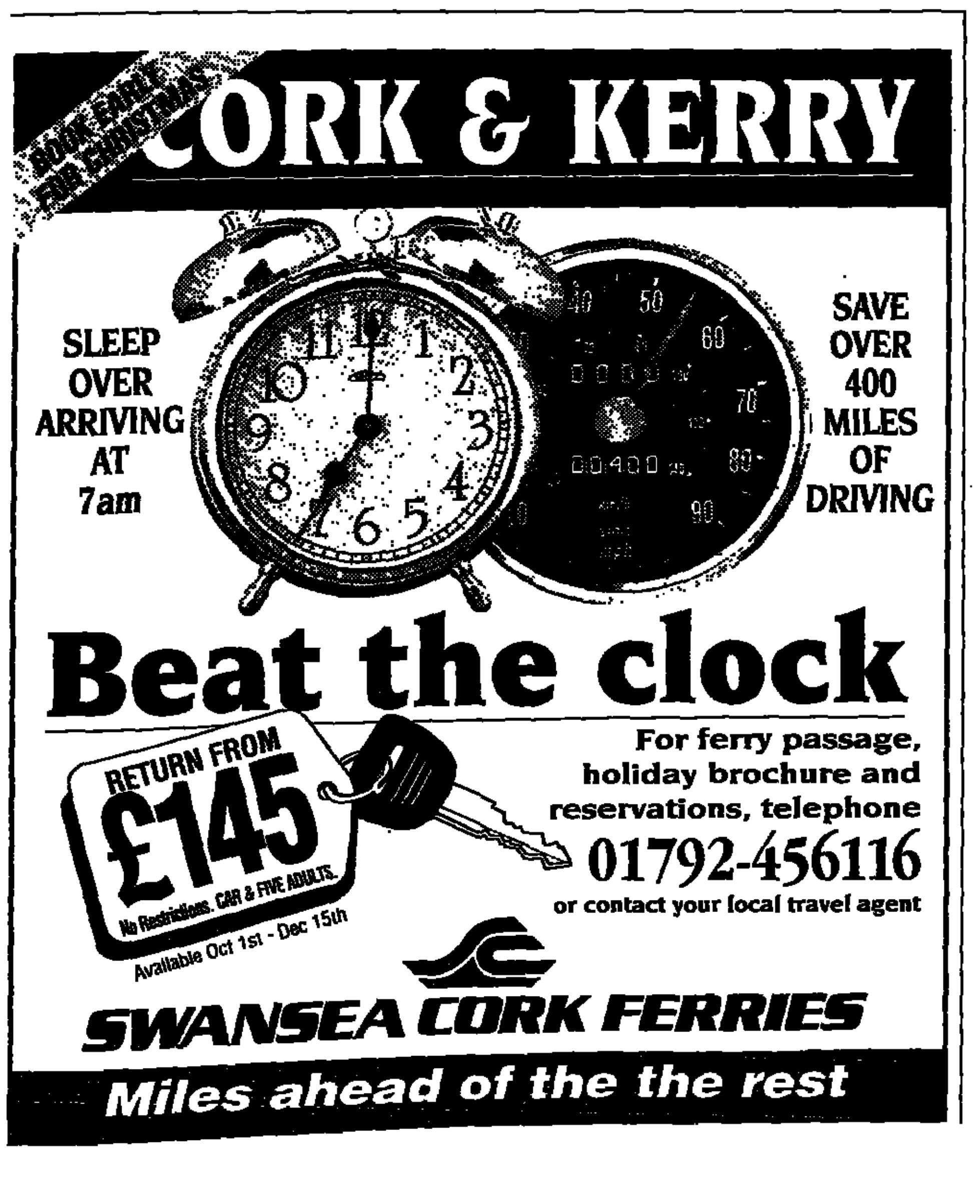
- **Heathrow:** The spectators gallery is on top of Terminal 2 — no lift, 70 stairs. One raised area overlooks an aircraft parking cul de sac but for Heathrow's 50th anniversary last year, another platform was opened with "a really cracking view," said a spokeswoman. Facilities are a small café — The Take-Off — and an aviation hobby shop, called Mach 3, open for three years and selling "everything you need". At weekends, during school holidays and for 'special aircraft days', over 1,000 people a day can visit. An average is 300 daily. Admission free: generally open daily from dawn to dusk.
The separate Visitor's Centre on Bath Road, which is also free, has a viewing area for take-offs and landings. Open daily.

- **Manchester:** Due to development work, the viewing terrace has been closed indefinitely. The Aviation Viewing Park is still open, an area near the runway, off the M56 (junction 6) designated for watching take-offs and landings. Admission: £1.50 for car and driver (50p additional passenger) — £2.50 at weekends. Café, toilets and aviation shop.

- **Luton:** A large spectator area with its own bar, serving meals, plus a separate snack shop. Open from 9am to 11pm daily, the gallery even has its own dedicated car park (£1), pool tables, darts and Sky TV. There is also another branch of Mach 3, the Heathrow aviation hobby shop. Admission free.

- **Edinburgh:** The spectators gallery is closed due to redevelopment of the terminal. Is due to re-open "at some stage" — possibly within a year.

- **Reading:** Mach 3 (0181-897 2747) publishes *World Airline Registrations* (£7.95), available from its Heathrow viewing shop. The Aviation Hobby Shop (01895 442123) publishes *Airlines* (£8.95).



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Living in the past with a house of spirits

Francis Gilbert picks up a new guide to London's lesser-known museums and finds some of the most atmospheric houses

DENNIS SEVERS HOUSE

I discovered Dennis Severs House one Sunday in midsummer. I tramped off the cobbled street, the trains from Liverpool Street Station rattling in the distance, and found myself tiptoeing into a mystical, cool domain.

A servant girl can be heard working upstairs, someone on horseback clip-clops nearby, the delicious aroma of roast lamb and mint sauce wafts from the kitchen downstairs, and the wispy smoke from tallow candles lures you into the front room.

As you stare in astonishment at the rock sugar candy, Severs creeps up and explains the overturned clay pipe, overflowing fruit bowl and powdered wig on the varnished table: "You are now in the home of the Jervises, a family of master silk weavers of Huguenot descent. Can you feel their spirits?"

It is the beginning of an astonishing tour of a Georgian household. You are taken down to the dimly-lit kitchen where Severs tells you of the ambitious Mrs Jervis, who desperately wants her daughter to marry well.

An elaborate door knocker

Upstairs, one of the rooms is a perfect recreation of one painting from Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, with its overturned chairs, long clay pipes, empty punch bowl and drained glasses of wine on the table. A reproduction of the painting hangs over the mantelpiece, mirroring the room. My favourite space is the top floor. Whereas the rest of the house is opulent, here the rooms are poverty-stricken: cobwebs, sagging walls, chairs caked in wax.

Severs explains that it is where the servants used to live, condemned to weave the silk garments through the day and night in sweat-shop conditions for their masters down below. The Huguenots employed slave labour to fund their lavish lifestyle.

"You are like Scrooge when you travel through this house: spirits visit you and often you will undergo some kind of rebirth," said Severs.

ASHLEY COOMBES

Dennis Severs has lived in Georgian style for 17 years. "You are now in the home of the Jervises, a family of master silk weavers of Huguenot descent. Can you feel their spirits?"

A word of warning, though. If you are looking for authenticity, you will not find it at Dennis Severs House. He has created a past culled from black and white movies, sepia photographs, Victorian literature, and his own unique reading of East End history. Practically nothing in the house is antique — but the life he lives there is genuine — the urine in the chamber pots is not left there for effect.

Severs, an American, has lived here for 17 years. "It's my passion," he said. "I grew up in California, where everyone buys happiness. But this is modern art — it's almost spiritual."

● *Dennis Severs House, 18 Folgate Street, Spitalfields, London E1 (0171-247 4013). Open on the first Sunday and Monday of each month. Sunday 2pm-5pm (£7); Monday after dark for the Silent Night tour (£10), booking essential. Tube: Liverpool Street.*

● *All three museums are featured in Little-Known Museums In and Around London, by Rachel Kaplan, published on Monday by Abrams at £13.95.*

The Regency Room at the Geffrye Museum has a zebra-wood inlaid card table

THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM

Christmas time. A weary traveller, grateful to escape the brutalist architecture and cacophony of the Kingsland Road in East London, stumbles upon a hidden Eden. A bewigged statue of an imposing nobleman, his shoulders garlanded with snow, gazes on a large, peaceful garden with wrought iron gates. I am thrust back into the 18th century.

Robert Geffrye, twice created Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, and a Lord Mayor of London, is ensconced in a niche which is part of the 14 terraced almhouses and a chapel which he built in 1715. The austere, beautiful buildings served as retirement homes for pensioners and widows for almost 200 years until the early 20th century, when the Arts and Crafts Movement saved them from demolition and set up the Geffrye Museum in 1914.

There is something very welcoming about the Geffrye. Admission is free and the attendants are relaxed and friendly. In summer you can sit in the herb garden, and you can relax in the café or reading room all year round.

It is the only museum in Britain to specialise in the history of domestic interiors, displaying a collection of English furniture and decorative arts in a series of period rooms from 1600 to 1950. That winter's afternoon I was lured into a magical evocation of Christmas Past; the rooms sparkled with festive decoration. As I immersed myself in the customs, rituals and adornments once common in English homes, 400 years of Christmas traditions came to life.

The first port of call is an Elizabethan drawing room, all heavy oak and rough woollen textiles; a creepy rocking cradle with an eye carved on its hood to ward off evil spirits suggests visions of a malign and gothic world. The Stuart Period room contains the most valuable item in the museum: an extraordinary ebony cabinet inlaid with exotic woods and ivory. The Queen Anne room shows an increasing desire for luxury and Eastern motifs with furniture japanned to imitate oriental lacquer. The Regency room is the staff's favourite. It is elegant, airy and spacious, beautifully decorated with blue and white stencilled wallpaper, white marble fireplace, carved beech and satin wood harp, a zebra-wood brass-inlaid card table and ornate silver tea set. Schoolchildren love the Victorian room, with its knick-knacks, brightly coloured curtains, Davenport writing desk, glass-domed shell ornaments, sewing box and elaborate flowers.

Christine Lalumia, the museum's deputy director, says that a number of older visitors become emotional about the 1930-40 room. The Blitz is poignantly evoked with crackling wartime songs on the Bakelite radio. A game of "Sorry" is spread out in front of chunky upholstered chairs. A biscuit tin is about the only luxury you will find here.

● *Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (0171-739 9893). Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm; Sundays and Bank Holidays 2pm-5pm. Underground: Liverpool Street Station, then Bus 22A, 22B or 149 from Bishopsgate. Best times to visit: weekday afternoons. Worst times: weekday mornings (when school parties are visiting) and Sunday afternoon. Admission free.*

THE DICKENS MUSEUM

American tourists searching for the inside story on Scrooge and *A Christmas Carol* often wend their way to the Dickens House Museum in Bloomsbury, according Andrew Xavier, the Deputy Curator. They may leave somewhat disappointed because, unlike Dennis Severs House, the museum does not offer a fantasy vision of the past. It is a serious and scholarly museum containing many original facsimiles, first editions, prints, paintings and Dickens memorabilia.

Dickens moved into this fine Regency home at 48 Doughty Street in April 1837, aged 25. He had just married and was establishing himself as a writer. He finished *Pickwick Papers*, and wrote *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Oliver Twist* in the house. Documenting these early years was not easy because most of the original material from Dickens's life comes from when he was much older, but the museum has succeeded.

This museum is worth several visits. Recently I found myself reading the handwritten manuscript for *Nicholas Nickleby*, and a letter written by Mary Hogarth, his sister-in-law, who died at the age of 17 — a death which greatly affected Dickens. The great man's quill pen, his reading glass, his desk, and the ghastly grille from Marshalsea prison where his father was imprisoned for debt are all in the house.

Dickens: vital presence

Due to a lack of resources only the dining room truly resembles the house as it would have looked in Dickens's time. But with its rosewood furniture and large table, it is peculiarly ordinary — a reminder that for all his wild imagination, Dickens hankered after middle-class respectability.

Most visitors are entranced with R.W. Buss's painting *Dickens's Dream*, where many characters from his novels are depicted.

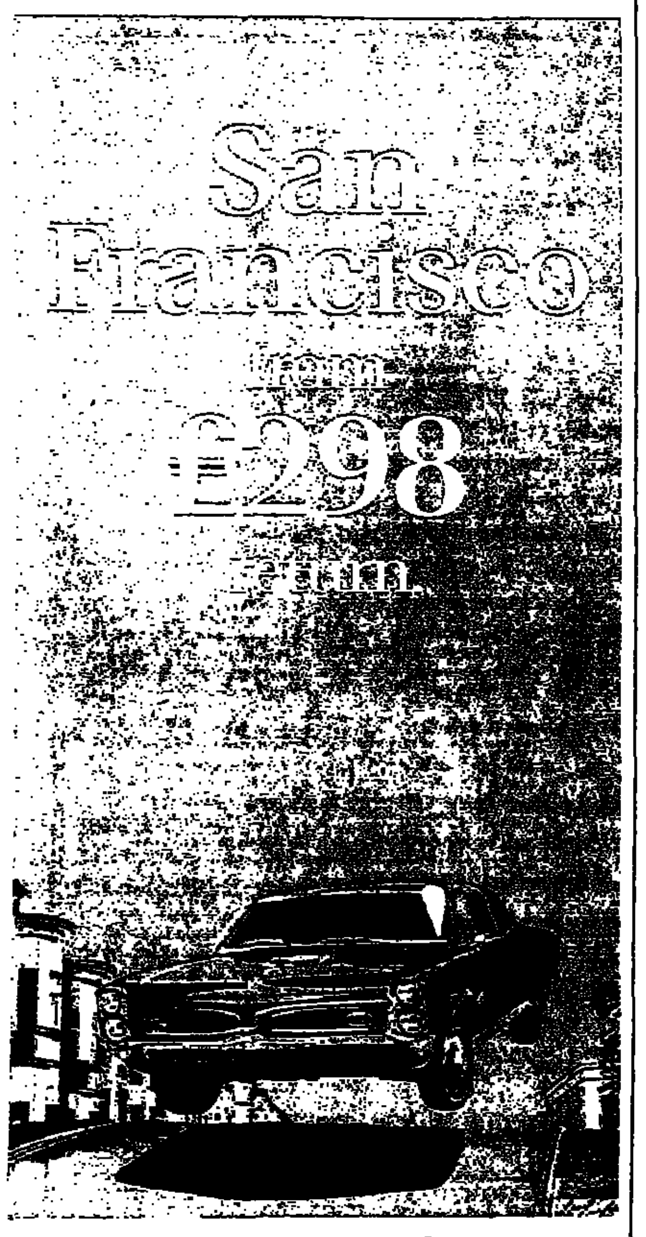
The Deputy Curator's favourite exhibits are two recently acquired portraits of young Charles and his wife by Samuel Laurence which seem to bring his vital presence into the room.

● *Dickens House Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N (0171-405 2127). Open Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm. Tube: Russell Square, Farringdon or Holborn. Best times to visit: weekday mornings. Admission £3.50 adults, £2.50 students, £1.50 children.*

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 30

LOKI
(c) Loki was the bad boy of the Norse Gods. He saved them from paying the builder of the wall around Asgard. He turned himself into a mare and so excited the builder's horse, Svadilfare, that the work was not completed on time.
RUNOUT
(c) The recovery from recoil. In automatic weapons such as the Bofors, this was used to actuate the mechanism of loading and firing the next round.
CONIC SECTIONS
(a) Conic sections are the figures obtained by plane sections of a double right-circular cone. Depending on the angle, the sections are (1) a pair of straight lines; (2) a circle; (3) an ellipse; (4) a parabola; and (5) a hyperbola.
HIPPOCAMPUS
(c) Seahorses swim, unlike most fish, by passing waves along the dorsal fins.



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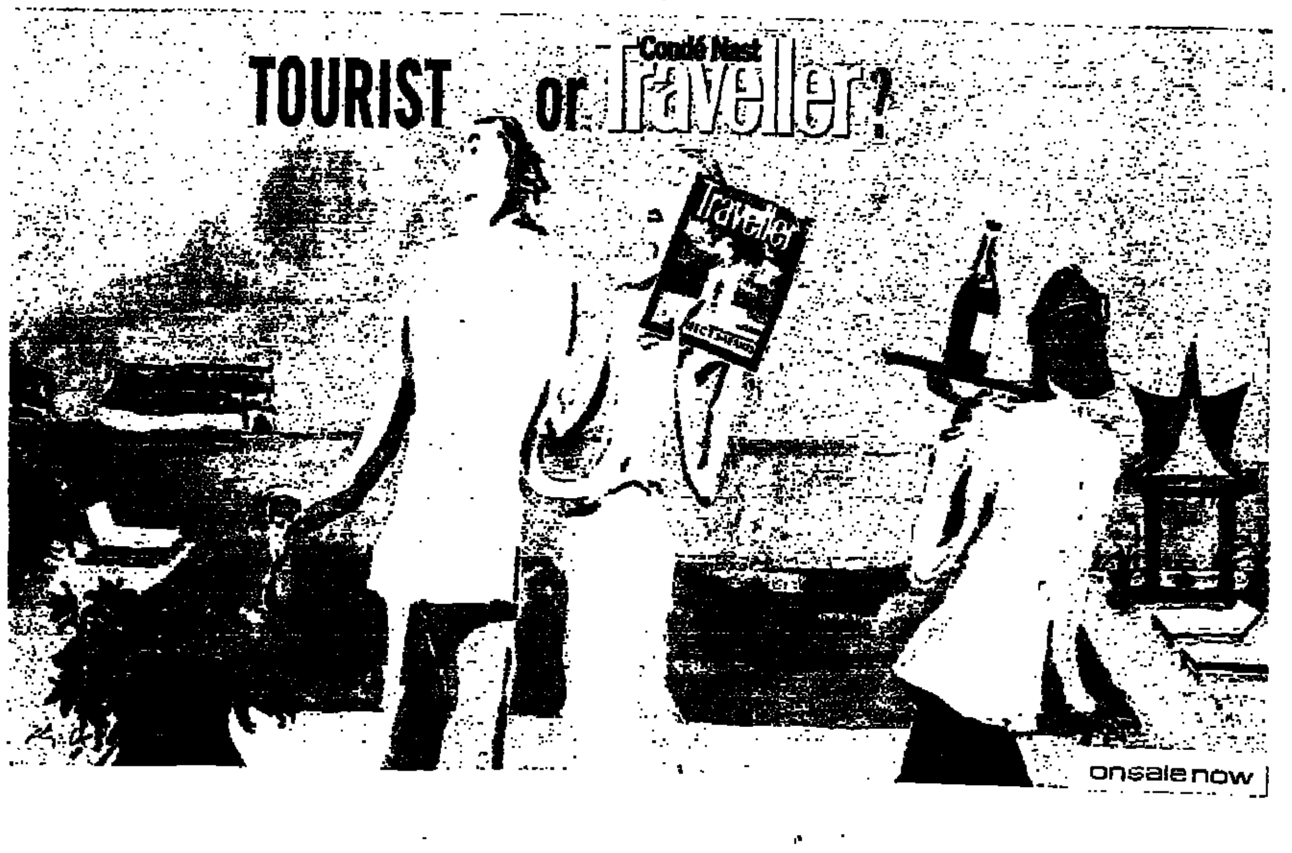

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Best baroque in Budapest

BUDAPEST is rivalling Prague, the Czech capital, as the best-selling Central European short-break destination, according to travel companies.

Prague probably wins on its architectural merits and slightly lower prices, but Budapest can *offer the contrast of the baroque* delights of the lofty Buda, with the Art Nouveau treasures of the lowlier Pest on the other bank of the river. The Danube is a priceless tourist asset, and for anyone who can master a menu in the tortuous Finno-Ugric tongue, the Magyar cuisine of duck and goosefat, sausages, pork, cream and wine has to be an improvement *over the beer-and-dumpling*-inspired Czech diet.

The one thing that the cities have in common is rapacious taxi drivers who are happy to take unwary visitors for a ride. If you want to avoid them, get a hotel to call a cab for you from a licensed firm.

Travelscene (0181-427 4445) offers two nights' B&B in a three-star hotel in Budapest for £267. Crystal (0181-241 5040) can do the *five-star Grand Hotel Corvinus* Kempinski for £369, while Danube Travel *(0171-493 0263) offers* rooms in a pension from £247. All *prices are for two nights' B&B per* person, and include flights.

Treasure island

A "NEW" island is about to appear on the tourist map of the Seychelles archipelago. It is the tiny Frégate, 40 miles off Mahé, named by a French seaman in 1744 after the frigate birds nesting on the island's reefs. Even today the human inhabitants are greatly *outnumbered by the wildlife,* which includes 50 species of bird, *including the indigenous magpie* robin, as well as geckos, marine *turtles and giant tortoises.*

However, to the dismay of the *American hotel company* AGC Management, which is constructing a *luxury resort, a number* of rats joined the island's wildlife brigade last year. They were believed to have swum ashore from passing ships, no doubt liking what they saw of the island's top-rated beaches and lush vegetation. A special team from New Zealand was *flown in to deal with* the rat problem, which I am assured has now been solved, and the Frégate Island Private development is due to open this December. Its 16 luxury villas, sleeping two to four people, do not come *cheap at $1,200-$1,500 (£775-£970)* per day, but there is always the chance of finding the buried treasure that Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, believed pirates had left behind.

Further details from AGC *(0049 69 6860 9044).*

Parades and all that jazz

THERE will be trumpeting in the streets of Cork between October 24 and 27, at what the *locals call "the biggest jazz party in the world", with open-air jazz* parades, outdoor sessions in the city centre and a jazz trail where visitors can stroll free of charge the 40 venues. The Benny Green Trio, Val Wiseman, the Drummin' Man and King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys are some of the musicians taking part.

Cresta Holidays (0161-926 9999) offers hotels in and around Cork, travelling either by sea or air. Three nights' B&B at the three-star *Arbutus Lodge Hotel costs £155* per person, inclusive of the sea *crossing between Holyhead and* Dublin Bay for car and passengers, or £208 by air from Gatwick.

In search of a colourful past: the Sofitel Metropole Hanoi

MORE *than 600 concerts,* exhibitions and other events will be taking place in Stockholm next year, when the Swedish capital takes over from Thessaloniki in Greece as the Cultural Capital of Europe. *Architects will sculpt figures* from ice and snow in Kungstragarden Park *and* Strandvagen during the winter months; Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, former Abba members, will premiere their musical *Kristina fran Duvemala* on February 14 at the new Cirkus auditorium. In the autumn, the *Under Exposed exhibition featuring leading* photographers such as Helmut Newton, Irvin Penn, Sally Mann and Josef Koudelka will be displayed in Stockholm's underground, already dubbed the world's longest art gallery because of its imaginative decoration by contemporary *artists. Further information on* 0171-724 5868, or the 24-hour brochure line *(01476 578811).*

Hanoi history

THE Hotel Metropole in Hanoi, below left, built in the Vietnamese capital in 1911, has played host to the famous and the infamous over the years. Guests have included Graham Greene, *Robert De Niro,* Gérard Depardieu, George and *Barbara Bush, Jacques Chirac* and Catherine Deneuve. Now it is *hoping to fill the gaps in its history* with old postcards, stolen spoons *and ashtrays, old menus and bills,* or any other memorabilia that would help chronicle its legendary past. Run by the French until 1954, the Metropole lost much of its splendour during the war, was closed in 1990 and reopened after restoration in 1992. Now known as the Sofitel Metropole Hanoi, its rooms cost £143 single, £161 for a double, per night. To offer help in the historical search, call Sofitel on 0181-754 8788; for reservations call 0181-283 4570.

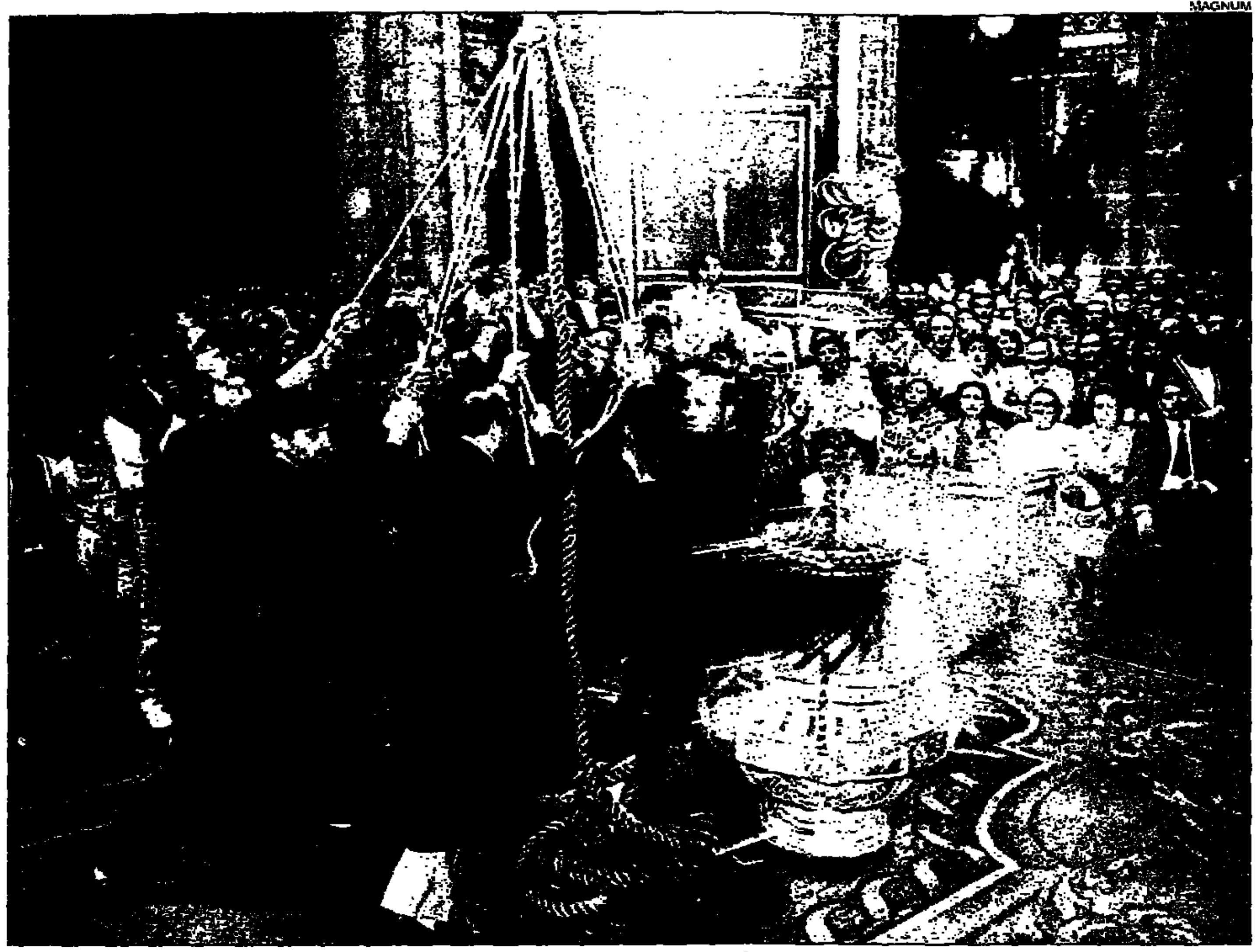
Though not using the Metropole *Hotel, a new range of eight tours* throughout Vietnam is available *from Guerba Expeditions* (01373 826611). A 15-day Overland Adventure including Hanoi costs £660 per person B&B, excluding flights.

Families first

THOMSON Holidays (0990 143503) says its Superfamily programme for 1998 will give families everything they have asked for, including pre-bookable aircraft seats (at £5 per adult), interconnecting hotel rooms for parents and children, and Superfamily hotels that are the first stop on the airport transfer bus route.

Babycare equipment is provided: free cots and highchairs, *bottle equipment is £10 per holiday,* and playpens and strollers *are £15 each to hire.*

Among the 21 child-friendly *resorts are the purpose-built Ixia* in Rhodes and Protaras in *Cyprus.* Prices start at £229 per adult, £69 for the first child under 12, £138 for the second child for a week's half-board at the Hotel Taurus Park on the Costa Brava's Pineda in May. Peak prices rise to £325, £209 and £278 respectively.



MAGNUM

Clergy in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela return the vast incense burner to its normal site, hanging from the ceiling

Pilgrims' progress

VISITS to two of Europe's oldest and finest hotels are included in the eight-day Camino de Santiago coach tour next year from Magic of Spain (0990 462442). It follows the ancient pilgrims' route through northern Spain to the resting place of St James in Santiago de Compostela. The Hotel San Marcos at Léon was a 12th-century pilgrim's lodge, while the *Hotel de Los Reyes Católicos was founded almost* 500 years ago by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella as a hospital for sick and weary pilgrims. Converted to a parador in 1954, the hotel *retains its original cloisters and* Gothic patios.

PARTICIPANTS on the tour will not receive the official "compostela", the *certificate that proves they have completed the pilgrimage* — for which they would have to arrive on foot, horseback or bicycle. However, they will visit the medieval and Gothic highlights of Europe's oldest tourist route in Santo Domingo, Burgos, Astorga and Ponferrada, all leading to the magnificent Romanesque cathedral.

There are two days at the end of the tour to explore the cathedral and Santiago itself. Take your umbrella — Santiago is known as a medieval aquarium and even, less politely, as the chamberpot of Spain. The tour costs between £799-£1,049, depending on the time of year, which includes flights and coach travel, half-board accommodation and entrance fees.

CAMPUS Travel has launched its own free *Rough Guide to Travel,* distributed at universities and colleges or available from 0171-730 8111. It gives details of fares, student passes and working holidays. For example: a Eurolines bus pass covers 17 cities for £159; Eurotrain *Explorer tickets allow travel* between London, Amsterdam, *Brussels and Bruges for £71:* the Mercosur Airpass covers Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay for $225 (£145). The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) offers more than 17,000 discounts on flights, car hire, YHA accommodation — as well as a 12-week subscription to *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* for £12. The card costs £5 from student travel offices or ISIC (01457 890900).

How to avoid being hijacked

The latest Travellers Handbook offers a wealth of hints for the adventurous traveller

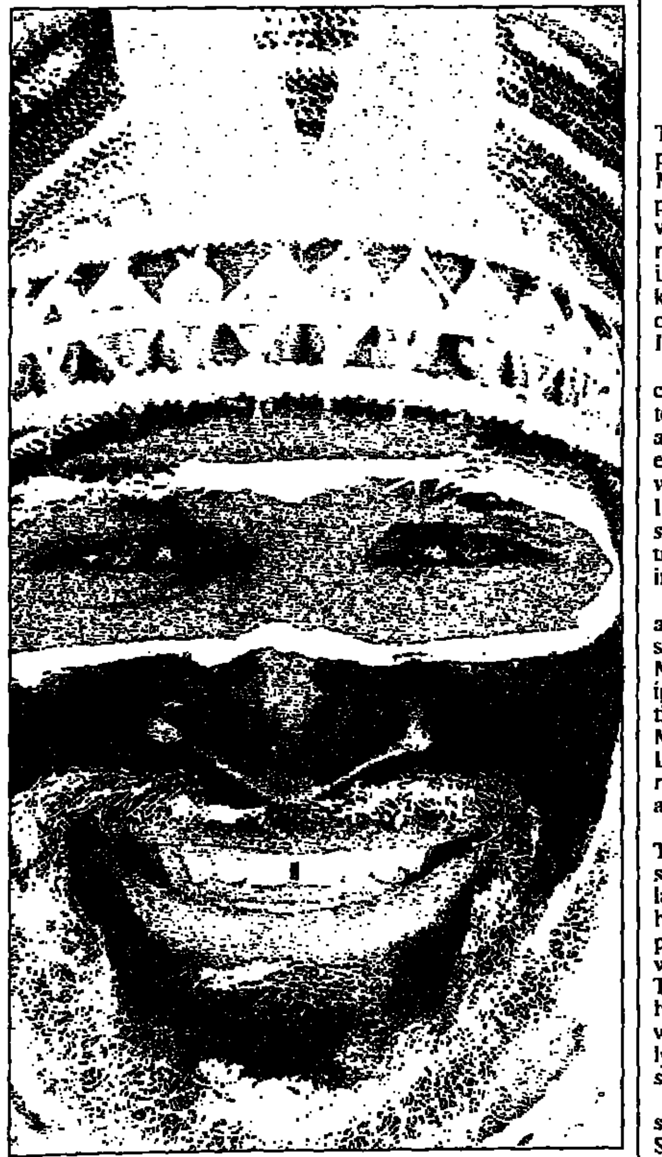
If there is one volume that travel writers and editors turn to more than any other, it is the *Traveller's Handbook*. On Monday (September 29), Wexas publishes the latest *edition of this reference* guide, containing nearly *1,000 pages of information* on everything from understanding airline ticket taxes to surviving a hijack.

Introduced by Michael Palin, the guide has contributions from some of the country's best travel writers — Nicholas Crane discusses travelling by bicycle, Benedict Allen describes travels with his video diary, and there are sections on "The Concerned Traveller" by Professor David Bellamy, "The Polar Traveller" by *Ranulph Fiennes and* "Travels with my Camera *Crew" by Clive* Anderson.

The guide includes detailed *sections on* capitals, language, currency, religion, population, visa and inoculation requirements, airlines and food.

I tested the handbook in response to a friend's query about travelling to Georgia. The book performed well, giving, as well as the basics, details of currency *restrictions,* public holidays, a hospital address *and telephone* number, and realistic information *about telecommunications* with the UK: "IDD in theory available, in practice almost impossible." However, it did not advise having any inoculations before travelling to Georgia, whereas the Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad suggests taking precautions against hepatitis A and typhoid.

Despite a *surely superfluous* section on "Choosing *Travelling Companions*", which advises you to visit the pub together before venturing to more exotic locations, *The Traveller's Handbook* is unpatronising and direct. It lacks local flavour but this



The handbook tells you how to get on with the locals

avoids the disappointment of a recommended restaurant falling below expectations. It is no replacement, however, for a regional guide book.

● *The Traveller's Handbook (Wexas, £14.99).*

■ A FURTHER essential guide for the discerning *independent traveller is published this week. Unquenchable* in its search for value for money *and justifiably* proud of its independent status, *The Which? Hotel Guide 1998* claims to offer a warts-and-all consumer report on some 1,000 hotels in England, Scotland and Wales.

The guide is rewritten each year and attempts to respond directly to customers' complaints: the 1998 guide pinpoints hidden charges, and offers advice on how to assert your rights.

Recommended hostelries range from three-bedroomed B&Bs in Inverness to The Hempel in Bayswater, each of them *described in remarkable* detail. As British tourist *authorities have failed to produce* a national system for grading hotels, the *Which?* guide is introducing its own categories, including Imaginative Bedrooms, Brilliant Breakfasts, Island Hideaways, Budget Options and that old British favourite, Quirky Character.

JOANNA HUNTER

● *The Which? Hotel Guide 1998, Penguin £14.99.*

Don't forget to pack a mask

THE BEST advice for anyone planning an imminent trip to Malaysia, Indonesia or Singapore is to pack a smog mask, writes Cath Urquhart. The region has become enveloped in a thick cloud of pollution known as "the haze", a result of forest fires burning in Indonesia.

Frustratingly for travellers, confusion surrounds the extent of the problem. The haze *appears to be most thick in the* east Malaysian state of Sarawak, and *Sumatra in western* Indonesian, both of which are *slightly off the main tourist* trail, although popular with independent travellers.

But the stifling smog is affecting a vast swathe of south east Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. In particular, residents of the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore are *reporting high pollution levels* and breathing problems.

TRAVEL companies in Britain say they have had few cancellations, but many worried holidaymakers have been phoning for advice. A spokeswoman for travel agent Trailfinders said: "We have had a number of calls. Clients who are travelling immediately are postponing their trip or *swapping destinations.*"

Operators to the region *seem prepared to be generous.* Spokesmen for The Imaginative Traveller, British Airways Holidays, and Kuoni, said clients due to go to the region were being offered the option of postponing their trip, or choosing a different destination, without penalty. Regional *airlines including* Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, *Qantas, and Malaysian Airlines,* all say flights are operating as normal.

Anyone concerned about the haze should contact their tour operator before cancelling. Those with breathing problems should be wary of visiting the region, the Foreign Office says. And everyone should pack that smog mask.

● *Cycle shops stock smog masks, including: the Bandit Scarf (£11.95); the City Mask (£19.95); the X-Treme Urban Mask (£24.99). Also available from Respro: 0171-721 7300.*

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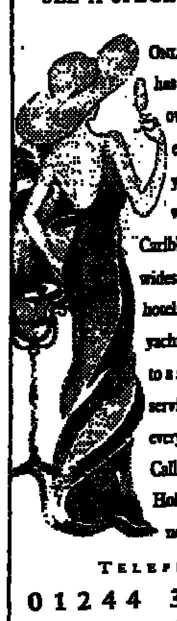

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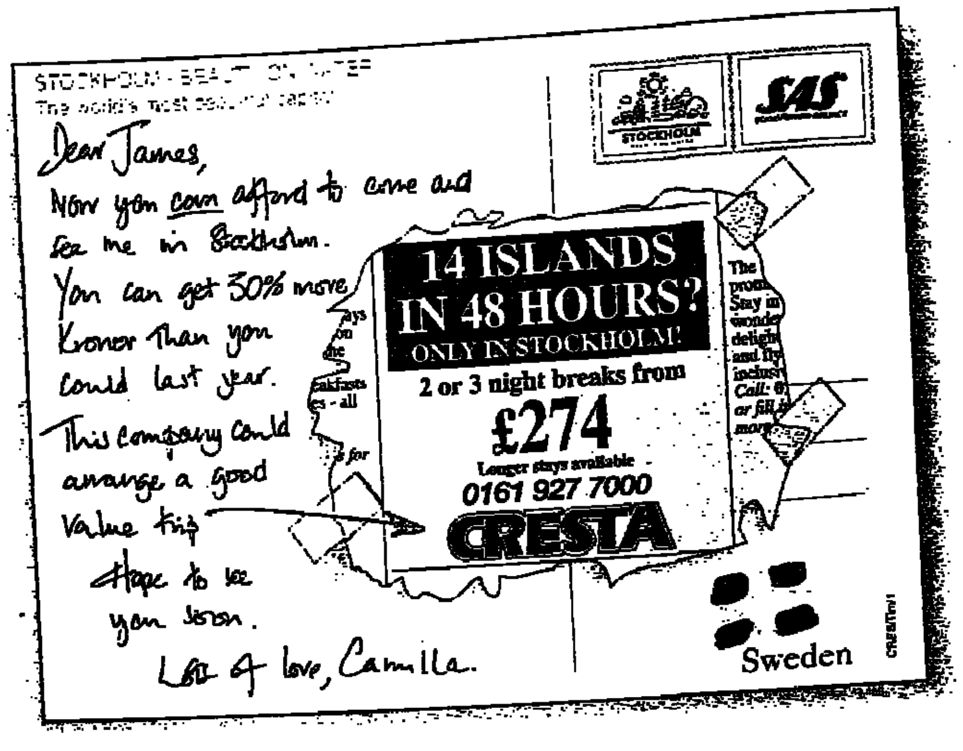

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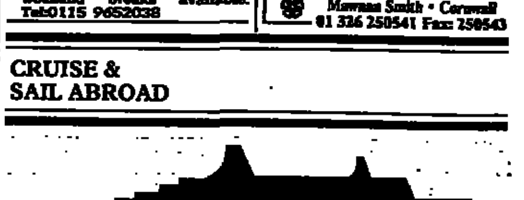

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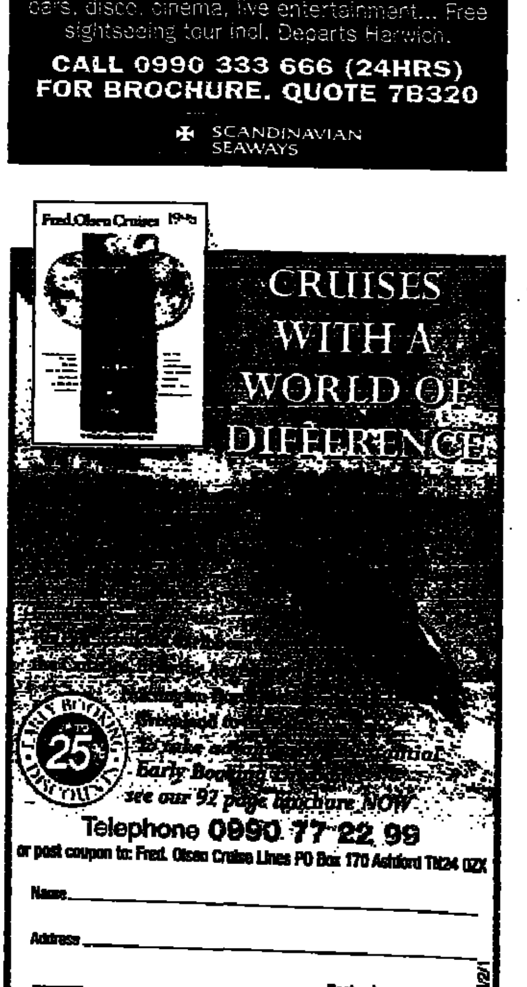

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Where Harry met Owain

In Worcestershire, **David Blundell** walks where an English king faced a warring Welsh chieftain

The two things Worcestershire has in abundance are countryside and history — and Abberley is an ideal centre for exploring both on foot. For an easy afternoon's circular walk, drive to the village of Great Witley and set off from the car park near the school. Walk back up the main road, turning right just past the Hundred House Hotel, and follow the footpath up the slope of Abberley Hill.

At the top of Abberley Hill, pick up the Worcestershire Way (signposted with a pear motif). There are fine views of the Woodbury Hill, with the Malverns in the background and, in the distance, Bredon Hill.

The Abberley Hills command the surrounding countryside and it was on their crest that in 1405 Henry IV posted his army. Facing him, on Witley Hill, was Owain Glyndwr, with 10,000 Welshmen, supported by a force of 12,000 French. After eight days the two sides settled for a draw, and Glyndwr withdrew into his Welsh fastness with his French backers.

Looking back towards Witley, you will see the ruins of Witley Court, one-time home of the Earl of Dudley. The house, abandoned in 1937 after a fire, was in its day one of the great houses of England. Queen Adelaide lived there in the mid-19th century, and it later became the epitome of Edwardian excess: at Christmas, it was the custom to hang a tree in the great ballroom with jewellery, instead of fairy lights.

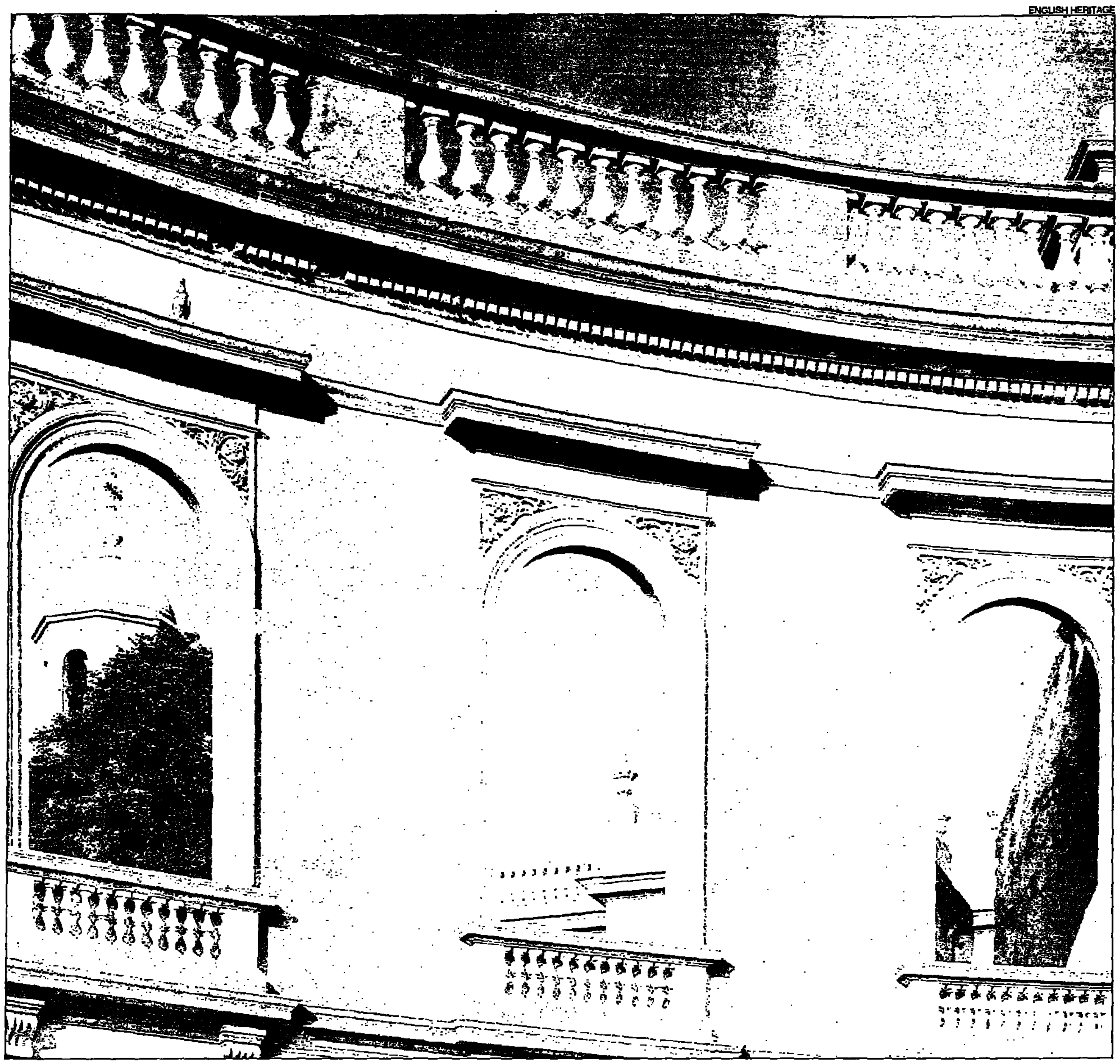
Next to the shell of the house is one of the country's finest (but least-known) baroque churches. St Michael and All Angels, which was restored after the fire, contains a stunning collection of paintings by the Italian artist Antonio Belluci. The house and grounds, now under the care of English Heritage, and the church are open to the public.

Resume your walk, turning left and passing an Ordnance Survey Triangulation point. From here you can detour northwest down the hillside to the village of Abberley and its restored Norman church of St Michael's.

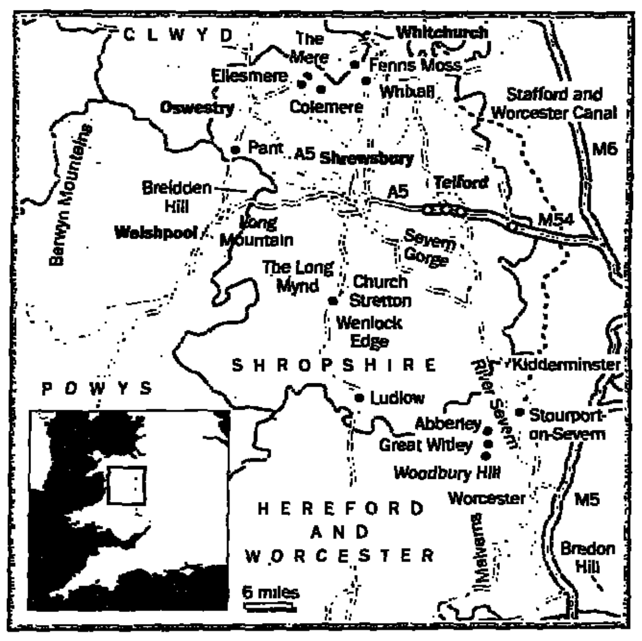
Climbing back to the crest of the hill, bear down through the trees from the trig point to meet the road (Wynniats Way) and continue to a sign marked Public Footpath to Great Witley. Follow this narrow path until you reach a metalled road. Turn right towards the main road and then left towards your starting point.

Nearby is reputed to have stood the original gospel oak, in the shadow of which Augustine met a gathering of Welsh bishops to try to settle an agreed date for Easter. He apparently had no more success persuading the Celts with argument than did King Henry later with his knights, and he too abandoned the contest.

ENGLISH HERITAGE



Window on history: Witley Court, one of England's great houses, abandoned after a fire in 1937, and the restored baroque church St Michael and All Angels, are open to the public



WORCESTERSHIRE FACT FILE

- *David Blundell stayed at The Elms, Abberley.* Worcestershire WR6 6AT (01299 896666). The house was built in *1710 and stands in the Teme Valley, 20 minutes drive from* Worcester and the M5. Prices are £75 for a single room per night, *including breakfast. Standard doubles: £110. (Prices 10* per cent lower Sunday-Thursday nights.) Dinner from £25 per person.
- Getting there: Travel by rail to Kidderminster. From London Euston, fares are from £26 for a daytrip, £33.50 return (journey time, two hours 45 minutes). By road, take the M5 heading south and leave at the first exit, for Droitwich.
- Maps: The Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 973 map for Great Witley (£4.50); Landranger 138 - Kidderminster & The Wyre Forest (£4.95).
- Tourist information: Worcester TIC (01905 726311).

Stanley Slaughter enjoys a wander through the gentler side of Shropshire

The less remembered hills

Just past Telford on the A5, the road rises over a slight hill. For a moment, there is a sumptuous view of the county of Shropshire. Far to the northwest are the Berwyn Mountains, rising to 2,000ft. To the southwest are The Long Mynd and Wenlock Edge, and between them the twin peaks of Breidden Hill and Long Mountain.

But it is the Shropshire Plain that holds the eye. Spreading out 180 degrees around you, it is a vast patchwork of rolling green fields. It must rank as one of the great panoramas of England. Most visitors drive on, passing the historic town of Shrewsbury, past the delightful market town of Oswestry and on into the dramatic mountains of North Wales.

Those who do stop invariably turn south to the Blue Remembered Hills of A.E. Housman's South Shropshire and pretty towns like Ludlow and Church Stretton. Few visit the north of this large county, yet there is much there which deserves more than a second look.

Now the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, conscious of its precious inheritance, has set up 30 nature reserves throughout the county, the majority in the north. These reserves form a rich collection of wildlife and landscape that is not usually found in one small area.

The terrain of meres and mosses, which includes dramatic features like the Severn Gorge, were formed as the last Ice Age came to an end about 15,000 years ago. As the ice retreated it gouged out hollows which later filled with water. Today many of those are the meres around Ellesmere, known as Shropshire's Lakeland. Where the land was softer, such as around Whixall and Fenns, peat mosses developed and became home to rare flora and fauna, such as Britain's largest spider, the Great Raft Spider.

In small ponds the spiders skim across the water, sometimes diving to seize their prey, their black bodies marked by two broad yellow stripes. Despite the name, the spider is not that big, its abdomen smaller than a 20p piece, but it has a spider's typical long, spindly legs which make it look bigger.

To the west are Llanymynech Rocks, a dominating limestone outcrop which was quarried until the turn of the century. Below, in the village of Pant, the vast kiln and some of the winding towers have been preserved. But the rocks have returned to nature. High up the rock face are dozens of crows, jackdaws and pigeons and the sharp-eyed will also spot a pair of peregrine falcons. These large, grey birds, although plentiful in Wales, are among only ten known pairs in Shropshire.

JOHN TUCKER

The dramatic Llanymynech Rocks

Sadly the female has twice abandoned her nest this spring, leaving the eggs to the mercy of crows. The ground is covered with many varieties of orchids, including the beautiful, multi-coloured bee orchid, valerian and wild roses. But North Shropshire has a gentler side, notably among the lakes around Ellesmere. Many of the meres have well-marked paths around them for walkers to enjoy the profuse plant and wildlife.

The Mere, off the main road just outside Ellesmere, is the most popular, especially in April and May when, from the shore, you can see heron chicks on a mid-Mere island. But Colemere offers a bleaker and more isolated aspect and is home to some 80 species of birds, including finches warblers, tits, swans and geese.

The walk through the woodland of alder, pine and rowan is dominated by the sound of birdsong, while on the stretch that passes alongside the Shropshire Union Canal, you may be lucky enough to see the brilliant blue flash of a kingfisher.

Oswestry, near the Welsh border, is North Shropshire's largest town. Its dominating feature is the castle mound, formed by debris from the Ice Age, and where a fort has stood since pre-Norman times. It was a regular target in the border wars and the Welsh hero, Owain Glyndwr, captured it in his uprising of 1400. However it was not Glyndwr but Oliver Cromwell who reduced it to the piles of stone it is today.

The Puritan leader ordered its destruction as a reprisal for the Royalist sympathies of the town in 1644. It was acquired by the local council last century as a park to mark Victoria's Jubilee. There are some fine inns in the town and the Old Grammar School, first opened at Griddlegate in 1407, is still in business as a tourist information centre.

There is also a moving memorial to its famous son, Wilfred Owen, the First World War poet who was born in the town. The simple, silver plaque records Owen's birth, his award of the Military Cross in October 1918 and his death a month later.

On either side are verses from two of his best poems, *Anthem For Doomed Youth* and *Futility*. Both are poignantly appropriate. Owen was 25 when he died in a pointless action less than a week before the war ended. His parents, who lived in Shrewsbury, heard of their son's death on the day the church bells tolled to mark the Armistice.

FACT FILE

- Stanley Slaughter travelled with Shropshire Tourism, Long Lane, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 8DU (01588 672676), which offers information on where to stay and places to visit.
- How to get there: There is a regular rail service from London Euston to Shrewsbury via Wolverhampton. A supersaver return, travelling after 9.30am any day except Friday, costs £34. Information on 0345 484950.
- Where to stay: Hawkstone Park Hotel, Weston-under-Redcastle, near Shrewsbury (01939 200611): from £55 a night. Pen-y-Dyffryn Country Hotel, Rhydycroesau, near Oswestry (01691 653700): from £30 a night per person. B&B: Vyrnwy Bank, Llanymynech, near Oswestry (01691 830427), from £16 a night per person.
- Further information: Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG (01743 241691).

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LADIES

ADVENTUROUS, confident, professional, 45, likes walking, skiing, travel, music, theatre; slim, WLTM similar, trustworthy male to share good times. SW based. Reply with photo to Box No 7655 ☎ ✍

ANY fan of John Martyn, late 40's, join me for *London performance*. Box 7560 ☎ ✍

ARTIST. Successful, kind with lots of joie de vivre. Loves the sea and sailing, the town and country. Seeks an interesting 40's-50's brunette to share lifes pleasures. Please write with photo Box No 7614 ☎ ✍

BEAUTIFUL, warm, individualistic 30-something lady, well-spoken, well-travelled, Wilts based WLTM affectionate, handsome, secure 40-something gentleman who intends friendship to flourish. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 7640 ☎ ✍

BEAUTIFUL, tall, unique, elegant sporty brown eyed brunette, 33, WLTM tall, fit, affluent even tempered affable n/s gentleman. London. Please reply with photo to Bx 7684 ☎ ✍

BLONDE vivacious lady, young fifties, slim and attractive, varied interests, seeks companionship of compatible man. Photo appreciated. London. Box 7692 ☎ ✍

BUBBLY, blonde, busy lady seeks E. Midlands man 50ish to add sparkle to life enjoys golf/ travel/ relaxing dinners/ lively conversation. Box No 7601 ☎ ✍

CARING, attractive stylish lady with vivacious personality. Who loves travel, good food, dancing, sailing, town as well as country things seeks tall, 50-60s, n/s dynamic gentleman with good looks, integrity, kindness and humour to share laughter and love. London/ Home counties. *Photo please.* Reply Box 7662 ☎ ✍

CHARISMATIC, discerning, stunning n/s lady enjoys country/ town pursuits and finer things in life N/W area WLTM like minded gentleman 40-55 Photo plse Bx 7648 ☎ ✍

CHERCHEZ La Femme. She is in N.Surrey! Attractive happy solvent lady, late forties. Enjoys music, bridge, golf. Loves to travel especially in France. Looking for attractive relaxed happy man (50-60). Similar interests Box No 7612 ☎ ✍

CLASSY Brunette, attractive, feminine, slim, 35, seeks gentleman for long lasting loving relationship. S.E. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 7673 ☎ ✍

DARK eyed Oxfordshire professional 30y/o stunning single parent GSOH, WLTM a profession educated man 35-45 who enjoys the best in life. Photo please. Box No 7587 ☎ ✍

ENGAGING, attractive, elegant, professional lady, quintessentially English, affectionate, tactile, independent, Ex-Pat, sincere, positive, confident, easy going WLTM similar tallish gentleman 45+. Please reply with full length photograph to Box No 7625 ✍

LADIES

DO you want to meet an attractive, slim, professional woman with a GSOH and much else to offer? Her interests include theatre, cooking, eating out, travel, the arts, antiques and you. What are yours? If you're in your 50's & 60's, caring, intelligent & living within reasonable distance of North London, please write. Box No 7510 ☎ ✍

EDUCATED, slim, attractive nurse, (58), WLTM an older country gentleman Sussex/ Surrey/Hants who may like companionship and TLC during the winter months and hopefully longer Bx 7588 ☎ ✍

EXCEPTIONALLY pretty lady (39), feminine, cultured, elegant, seeks attractive, successful gentleman with warmth, style and humour. London or London/country. Photo appreciated. Box No 7609 ☎ ✍

EXTRAORDINARY, stunning, fit, divorced, 5'8, successful, cultured professional, 41, seeks extraordinary tall, strong, successful man. North East/ Yorkshire Box 7679 ☎ ✍

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FUDDY DUDDIES need not apply! Are there 2 single professional gentlemen in their 40's who would like to meet 2 lively attractive ladies (London) for friendship, maybe more? Photo essential! Box No 7644 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMAN Wanted, not just for Christmas but for the coming years ahead. Petite, attractive, lively lady, warm, loving and sincere, seeks like-minded man of similar age, 45-55. Country walks, music, skiing, wine, dine and dance. SW London. Photo please. Box No 7633 ☎ ✍

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HI I'm 46 and have been divorced 2 years. 5'6, blonde, 9 stone. I am very happy and have my own successful business in Suffolk and live in Essex. I need someone to love and share things with. Mr Perfect would be 44-55, 6' with a happy personality, very straight forward, never moody and seriously rich (I am not after your money but need to know you're not after mine) with GSOH Bx 7696 ☎ ✍

I am late 40's, divorced and children now flown the nest. I have been career focussed but would welcome response from n/s Renaissance man who shares broad interests, particularly a love of animals and some classical music. I live in East Anglia and will respond to all letters. Box No 7671 ☎ ✍

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INTELLIGENT, attractive, sensitive, separated lady, young 42, seeks a sensitive and reliable friend, 40-55, with wit & a passion for classical music. London. Box No 7690 ☎ ✍

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OXBRIDGE Gem beautiful asian (Brit/Pak) lady doctor. Elegant 5'6" thirties, seeking intelligent handsome gentleman to make her sparkle forever. London. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 7566 ☎ ✍

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PROF female, 43, recently to London. Interests: music, countryside, travel. Seeks genuine, honest, unpretentious male to enjoy & appreciate London with, to laugh, have fun & good social life. Are there any such gems out there? A.L.A. Please Reply to Box No 7694 ☎ ✍

MAN for all seasons is what I desire, although someone very special. I am in my mid 40's, divorced with a grown up daughter now flown the nest. I love my work. I'm sensitive, artistic, blonde, 5'7", slim and attractive. I live between London & Glos, have many interests including the outdoor life, horses, dogs, music/books, gym etc. I would like to meet a man with a lively intellect/ G.S.O.H. who is looking to start life afresh. Box No 7666 ☎ ✍

S. HERTS. professional woman, late thirties, warm personality, GSOH, who enjoys: theatre, films, concerts, music - classical to rock, books, good food & wine, conversation, travel, keep-fit and walks in the fresh air, would love to meet an intelligent, caring man to share some of my interests. If this strikes a chord, why not write and tell me about yourself and what you are seeking in a partner. ALA. Photo appreciated. *Please* Reply to Box No 7654 ☎ ✍

STRIKING attractive blonde, no ties, slim, sporty (plays golf) WLTM n/s male 47-60 North West Reply Box 7435 ☎ ✍

SLIM, divorcee, 5'7" graduate, 48, loves city and country life, seeks London-based divorced man, graduate, 47-53 with or without kids. Box No 7647 ☎ ✍

STOP. Vibrant, Stunningly Attractive lady of the Midlands, blonde, mid 40s, with energy for life. If you want real feelings with a future, write with photo Box 7641 ☎ ✍

STUNNING, intelligent slim blonde widow, seeks loving relationship with n/s gentleman 45-60 who enjoys the arts with great vitality who loves life. London based. Photo greatly appreciated. Please Reply to Box 7458 ☎ ✍

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STUNNING, vivacious, titian haired lady in her 40s, with GSOH, financially independant WLTM tall, dynamic, successful gentleman early 50s, interested in travel, good food, fine wine and music for fun times. Toy boys need not apply Photo and letter appreciated. London/ Home Counties Reply Box 7657 ☎ ✍

WANTED - male partner to play golf and bridge occasionally. Fun with GSOH please. 55-65 and live near SW.London. Box No 7611 ☎ ✍

WHOLEHEARTED, loving relationship sought with a clever man who has an ironic sense of humour by a similiar woman who is professional, in her early 40s and has style. South West/London Bx 7595 ☎ ✍

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YOUNG 41, sensitive and romantic, Capricorn, 5'7, slim and fit, who loves the outdoors, walking and skiing and is equally at home with the pleasures of the City especially music and theatre WLTM a good looking slim n/s man (30s-40s) to share lifes pleasures and tender moments on and off the slopes. Photo and letter appreciated. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box 7549 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMEN

ADVENTUROUS professional, 35, 6'1", fit in mind & body, occasionally wild, but a gentleman always. You are attractive, resourceful, outgoing & every bit my equal and you're reading this. Somerset/Dorset. Photo appreciated. Box No 7656 ☎ ✍

ALY KHAN, 39, n/s, 5'10, handsome, successful, solvent, Hampstead based. Romantic, loving and caring. Seeks his Princess, elegant, graceful with inner beauty for love, romance & domestic cosiness. Phone no. & photo appreciated. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 7573 ☎ ✍

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AMICABLY divorced, solvent, healthy, early retired late 50's, living in northwest wishes to meet n/s lively woman with GSOH and broad interests especially travel, antiques, art, books. Tell me your interests and what you'd look for in a friend or partner. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 7567 ☎ ✍

ARE you looking for fun and adventure on a Country Estate? Must be slim, attractive, vivacious & caring. 35-46. I am aslim, attractive, 6', divorced, 46 year old country gent, full of fun & romance. Photo appreciated. Box No 7636 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE 32, 6' businessman part indian/mediterranean heritage. Likes the good things in life from overseas travel to a simple dinner for two. WLTM caring, intelligent attractive woman prepared for someone to spoil her. Box No 7607 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE 6ft prof man, 38, fit, kind, easy going. Enjoys laughing, alternate therapy, theatre, travel, Yoga. Seeks warm female for fun, friendship, more. London/SE. Please Reply to Box No 7637 ☎ ✍

CHINESE, 39, London-based, tall, educated, well-travelled, easy-going, sincere chap WLTM pretty, N/S, slim, sporty 25-35 lady of similar background to share fun, laughter and romance. Letter & photo please. Please Reply to Box No 7660 ☎ ✍

FRENCH man, 33, single, seeks a nice correspondence & friendship with English girl. I like music, travel, languages, stamps and England. (I) want to improve my english. Meeting later possible. Please serious answers only: Box 7490 ✍

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GENTLEMEN

ERUDITE professional with hedonist tendencies in late 40's, enjoys intellectual pursuits but prone to frivolity seeks soulmate with sense of humour and fun to share cultural and entertaining pursuits - music, theatre, travel and more. Letter with photo appreciated. South East. Please Reply to Box No 7654 ☎ ✍

FRIENDLY out-going Irishman 44 separated n/s professional, lives in Dublin but prepared to travel, enjoys good company, conversation, theatre, cinema, travel, wining/dining, country walks, keep-fit, wltm attractive well educated woman, similar interests for friendship/ relationship, optimistic/ enthusiastic attitude to life more important than age or status. Please Reply to Box No 7675 ✍

INTERNATIONAL Executive Milan living American-Asian 55/166; seeking female, slim, 35+, who likes the diversity of life and the world. Please write with photo to Box No 7589 ✍

GENUINE, affluent, refined Company Director (own business) early fifties, tall, slim, dark hair with a warm nature and well balanced lifestyle. Lives in country environment. Seeks intelligent, attractive, slim lady, ns, GSOH, good taste, enjoys home life and travel (38-45) for long term/ permanent relationship. Distance no object. Please reply in writing. Photograph essential (returned). Box No 7603 ☎ ✍

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LOST: Zest for *Life*. Last seen by this 49yr old in W.London a few years ago before divorce. A n/s slim female needed to find it. Applicants *ideally* like cuddles and classical music. Rewards could be life long. Photo essential to Box No 7615 ☎ ✍

ROMANTIC, well educated, good looking, very successful professional, 44, living and working in Central London, starting again and hoping to meet beautiful, intelligent lady 20's/30's. Interests include skiing, extensive (leisure) foreign travel, food, conversation and enjoying life. Please write with photo to Box No 7683 ☎ ✍

SELF SUFFICIENT 33 year old academic General Practitioner interested in the Arts, Science and Spirituality, would like to meet a soulmate. I am 6'1", have mid brown hair, grey eyes, am slim, vegetarian and am not materialistic but organised. Interested in Judaism and working with individual and other living world narratives. London. Box No 7680 ☎ ✍

SOPHISTICATED lady sought by successful, international businessman. He - handsome, highly educated, London based & 39. She must be sparky with a flair for living who loves to travel, wine & dine & is aged 22-32. Please provide photo & tel no to Bx 7540 ☎ ✍

STARTING over! Successful early 40s, warm hearted male, looking for pretty, vivacious girl ideally in your 30s, fun loving and caring with GSOH. Thames Valley. Photo appreciated Please reply Box 7624 ☎ ✍

STOP- Stylish, Attractive, 30 year old Birmingham Dental Surgeon with everything in life but needs someone to share. If you are young, successful, believe in fate. Write with photo to Box no 7642 ☎ ✍

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WIDOWER, retired academic, likes country walks, travel, music, reading. N/S. WLTM lady companion 50's-60's to share interests. N. Bucks/Beds. Recent photograph please. Box 7691 ☎ ✍

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YOUNGER man, 30, slim, fit professional, seeks attractive older woman for laughter & romance, photo please, London, Thames Valley. Box 7658 ☎ ✍

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The solution
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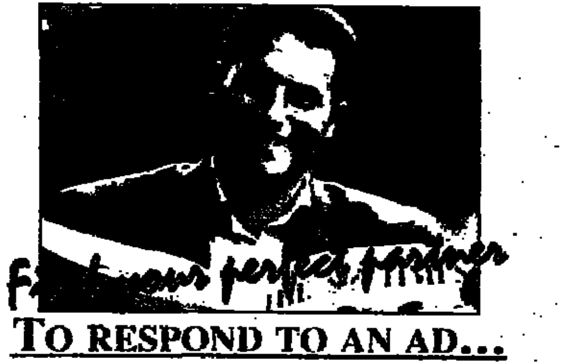

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE organisers of the UK Chess Challenge for British schoolchildren claim that, with 24,000 entrants, it was the largest chess tournament ever held.

The organisers also state that *they have research data* from a study in the Bronx and Harlem districts of New York demonstrating that chess players outperform non-chess playing contemporaries *in terms of literacy*, numeracy and attendance at school. In addition it was found that the juvenile crime rates dropped and chess players became more self-assured. Success in chess gave them confidence to aspire to achieve in other areas of *their lives.*

This week's game is a further sample of play by the overall winner of the UK Chess Challenge.

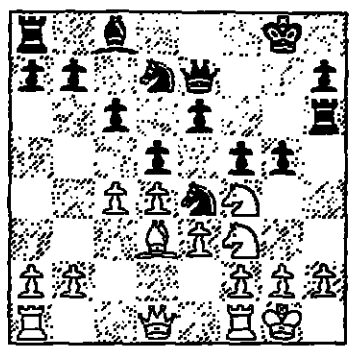
White: David Ho: Black: Richard Cleveland
Played at the Mind Sports Olympiad, Festival Hall, August 1997
Dutch Defence

1 d4 e6 2 c4 f5
3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 d5
5 Bg5 c6 6 e3 Be7
7 Bd3 0-0 8 0-0 Ne4
9 Bxe7 Qxe7 10 Ne5 Rf6

White has thematically exchanged off the dark-squared bishops and thus has good control over the dark squares.

However, Black has his own pluses in the form of his powerful knight at e4 and his impending kingside attack.

11 Ne2 Rh6 12 Nf4 Nd7
13 Nf3 g5



Perhaps White did not expect Black to "weaken" his king's position in this way, but now the white knights *are sent into retreat and the black* attack gains momentum.

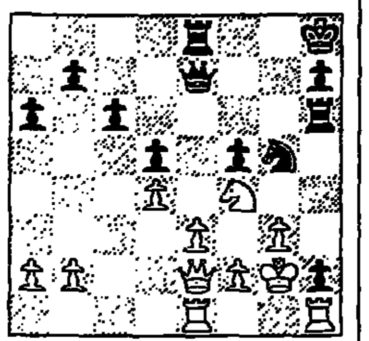
14 Ne2 g4 15 Ne1 Qh4

Now, in order to stave off mate, White must sacrifice a pawn and *therefore weaken his own king's* position.

16 h3 gxh3 17 g3 h2+
18 Kh1 Qg4 19 Nf4 Ndf6
20 Be2 Qg7 21 Neg2 Bd7
22 Qe1 Kh8 23 cxd5 exd5
24 Bf3 Rg8 25 Ne2 Be8

Now all the black reserves are brought up and the "bad" black bishop then becomes such a nuisance that White has to exchange it off.

26 Ngf4 Bh5 27 Nxh5 Nxh5
28 Kg2 Ng5 29 Bxh5 Rxh5
30 Nf4 Rh6 31 Rh1 Qe7
32 Qe2 Re8 33 Rae1 a6!!



This is a clever move. Black does *not see an immediate way to make* progress and so allows White to recapture his pawn, knowing that this will lead to a forced loss.

There is a deeper point to the move as well — on a full board, White is in zugzwang.

34 Rxh2

White snaps at the bait and soon loses.

However, he was running out of good moves. He could only move his pawns at a2 and b2 without suffering an immediate loss and *these pawns* would soon run out of moves.

34 ... Qe4+

This wins as the f3-square cannot be covered.

35 f3 Rxh2+36 Kxh2 Nxf3+
37 Kh3 Nxe1

Black wins the exchange and with it the game.

38 Qxe1 Qxe3 39 Qb4 Qe7
40 Qb3 Qg7 41 Qd3 Re4
42 Kh2 Qxd4 White resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

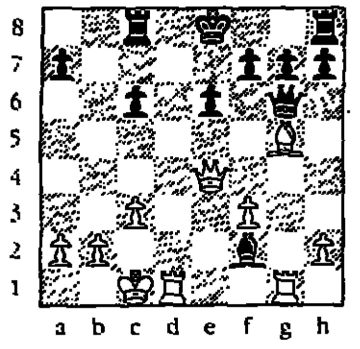
White to play. This position is from the game Marciano - Prie, France 1997.

In this messy position, Black's main problem is that he has not yet castled his king into safety. After White's next move he immediately regretted this. How did White continue?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution:1 ... Nc3+

Last week's winner:G Bird, Sticklepath, Okehampton, Devon.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

TWO OR three years back, everybody seemed to want their own video cameras. Today it is digital cameras and we have not one but three Kodak DC25 beauties, worth £200 each, to be won. Armed with one of these you can snap your memories and easily download them into the computer for endless manipulation and fun.

The Kodak DC25 is a sleek grey compact camera with built-in automatic flash. It is easy to use with a *regular viewfinder for lining up* shots and a ten-second self-timer. The flash also provides automatic fill-in light for better results.

On the back of the Kodak DC25 *is a small back-lit LCD* colour monitor for instantly reviewing all your snaps. You can view one or four at a time and delete any duffs at the push of a button to save storage space. You can take either 14 or 29 photos, depending on *resolution quality, and additional* pictures can be stored on slot-in memory cards, which hold 13 high resolution pictures per 2Mb.

The camera comes with four software titles for transferring images from the camera to PC, enhancing, expanding or cropping them and, of course, printing. *(Another fun image programme is* Kodak Picture Postcard Software, which makes colourful e-mail postcards of any digital image. This can be downloaded, free of charge, from http://www.kodak.com/diaHome/postcard/).

You can win a Kodak DC25 digital camera in our competition

One day we will all be taking digital photographs but you could *be one of the era's pioneers* by entering Cyberspace Thirty-Six. It was Frederick Barnard who said that a picture is worth ten thousand words but for this competition it *should be worth exactly 100. To* enter, vividly describe in precisely *100 words your favourite photo*graph. It can be a family snap or a well-known work but you must *bring it to life* by description alone.

The competition is open to all ages. Send your entry, *with your* name, age, address and home telephone number to Cyberspace Thirty-Six, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, *London* E1 9XN. You may also e-mail entries to us, clearly marked for Cyberspace Thirty-Six, at cyber@dircon.co.uk. The competi*tion closes on Tuesday* October 14. *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

In Cyberspace Thirty-Five you were *asked* to come up with slogans for T-shirts and one of the most delicious came from Darren Pinchin in Albury, Surrey: "Hush. Have a plum". Proving he needs to get out more, Martin Leigh of Bibury, Glos, came up with: "My *other computer's a Spectrum*". Failed scientists, meanwhile, might like the entry from B.W. Davies of Blewbury, Oxon, "Eurekalmost!"

Some opted for traditional bon *mots, like Vinay Duddalwar* from Aberdeen who wrote: "I used to think I was insecure — now I am not so sure" or nine-year-old Jodie Nel of Southend-on-Sea: "You can tune a piano but you can't tuna fish". The above can all consider *themselves winners* as may Geoff Holme of Lancing, West Sussex. He suggested a host of slogans, among them this: "I entered the Cyberspace Thirty-Five Competi*tion and all I won* was this lousy Anglia Multimedia Super Iron-On Kit". His other 19 entries formed part of his obsession with inventing haiku based entirely on the pork *product Spam. Haiku are Japanese* poems exactly 17 syllables long and while none beat his lousy T-shirt line, you can check out these and others at his Spam haiku Website *(http://pemtropics.mit.edu/jcho/*spam/archive.html).

If you are Internet surfing you might want to check out another gem, especially if you are having a Bad Hair Day. The London hairdresser Trevor Sorbie invented the wedge, *scrunch and chop (it says* here) and now he has opened his own online hair clinic. Key in your hairdo headaches (at http://www.trevorsorbie.com) and Trev will dispense advice and remedies by return. Fill in his questionnaire and, if you live in the UK, you will also be sent free product samples.

LATEST SOFTWARE

THE newest of the season's first-*person-perspective titles* is **Hexen II**, a sure-fire hit developed by Raven Software and released by Activision.

The original Hexen quickly established itself alongside **Doom** and **Quake** as a quality title. Hexen *II is equally solid with cavernous* gameplay to be found in its Gothic warren of corridors and secret passages. The four horsemen of the Apocalypse each rule their own world with a suitably atmospheric architecture style: Meso-American, *Egyptian, Greco-Roman and Me*dieval Europe.

The game serves up immediate blastfeast opportunities as monsters lurk at every turn and you get your hands on 32 types of weapon. But there is more to Hexen II than running around killing all that moves. New dimensions in the *gameplay give added strategic* depth to this role-playing adventure since your actions in one world can have consequences later in another.

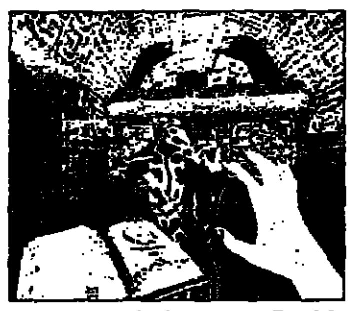
You can opt to play as one of four characters with individual qualities, like being able to disappear or heal others, handy in multi-player *mode for network or internet* games. One of the next generation of the genre, Hexen II looks great and plays superbly well. "Newbies" to computing will love it, others might find it difficult to override inevitable feelings of déjà vu. *Verdict: 8 out of 10. Masterful* next-generation Doom clone: £39.99.

The ten CD-Rom budget compilation from Koch Multimedia, **Ultrapack Vol 1**, has something for everyone, even if all the titles have been around for a year or two. Lotus AmiPro is a word processor, *Corel Draw! is a popular graphics* programme and 3D Home Design, though basic, will allow you to redesign the living room without lifting a stick of furniture. All the other titles are reference works and, with one exception, can be considered worthy additions to any software library.

There is the universal interactive atlas World Atlas 5, How Your Body Works, a guide to the working of the human body, a current Egon Ronay guide to hotels and restaurants in the UK and Formula 1 Racing, covering 46 years of Formula One motor racing with full motion video and *200 action photographs.*

Completing the pack is Collins Electronic English Dictionary & Thesaurus and the invaluable Library of the Future, which has a staggering 3,500 complete texts from historical literary works. The *one let-down is the 1996 edition of* the Hutchinson Multimedia Encyclopedia, *which is a limp pretender* to the encyclopaedic crown worn with grace by Microsoft's excellent Encarta. All CD-Roms run on Windows 3.1 or 95.

- *Verdict: 7 out of 10. Decent collection of reference titles. £29.99.*



Hexen II will be a sure-fire hit

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 127

1 N	E	2 I	T	3 H	E	4 R	H	5 E	R	6 E	N	7 O	R	8 T	H	9 E	R	10 E	■	11 B	E	12 W	I	13 T	C	14 H
E	■	N	■	O	■	U	■	X	■	A	■	S	■	O	■	N	■	X	■	U	■	H	■	H	■	I
15 C	O	V	E	R	S	L	I	P	■	16 R	E	A	R	M	■	17 R	O	C	K	T	H	E	B	O	A	T
T	■	I	■	T	■	E	■	O	■	L	■	K	■	D	■	A	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	M	■	T
18 A	N	G	L	E	I	R	O	N	■	19 D	R	A	W	I	N	G	U	P	■	20 O	U	T	W	I	T	H
R	■	I	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	O	■	■	■	C	■	E	■	T	■	N	■	■	■	S	■	E
21 S	I	L	E	S	I	22 A	■	23 N	A	M	E	24 S	A	K	E	■	25 P	I	N	E	M	26 A	R	T	E	N
■	■	A	■	I	■	G	■	T	■	■	■	P	■	A	■	27 P	■	O	■	D	■	M	■	■	■	A
28 R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	S	29 M	■	30 I	G	N	O	R	A	N	T	■	31 D	E	L	32 P	H	I
E	■	E	■	■	■	I	■	A	■	I	■	C	■	D	■	I	■	A	■	33 A	■	R	■	L	■	L
34 A	B	D	O	35 M	I	N	A	L	■	36 S	A	Y	W	H	E	N	■	37 B	A	S	T	I	N	A	D	O
D	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	L	■	C	■	■	■	A	■	C	■	L	■	P	■	C	■	T	■	N
38 B	R	39 E	A	T	H	40 A	L	Y	S	E	■	41 T	H	R	E	E	M	E	N	I	N	A	B	O	A	T
E	■	A	■	R	■	V	■	■	■	L	■	H	■	R	■	R	■	■	■	R	■	S	■	O	■	H
42 T	E	R	R	I	T	O	R	43 I	A	L	A	R	M	Y	■	44 E	V	45 A	N	E	S	C	E	N	C	E
W	■	N	■	C	■	W	■	N	■	A	■	O	■	■	■	G	■	L	■	■	■	U	■	■	■	H
46 E	X	E	C	U	T	A	N	T	■	47 N	E	W	G	48 A	T	E	■	49 P	H	50 O	S	P	H	51 A	T	E
E	■	S	■	L	■	L	■	E	■	I	■	I	■	B	■	N	■	H	■	N	■	■	■	L	■	A
52 N	A	T	H	A	N	■	53 P	R	E	S	E	N	C	E	■	54 T	R	A	N	S	P	55 O	R	T	E	D
T	■	■	■	T	■	56 A	■	C	■	T	■	T	■	L	■	■	■	A	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	■
57 H	O	58 R	S	E	O	P	E	R	A	■	59 S	H	E	E	P	60 P	E	N	■	61 T	A	P	E	R	E	62 D
E	■	A	■	■	■	O	■	O	■	63 J	■	E	■	■	■	A	■	D	■	■	■	U	■	N	■	A
64 L	I	M	P	65 E	T	S	■	66 S	C	O	U	T	C	67 A	R	S	■	68 O	B	69 S	E	R	V	A	N	T
I	■	E	■	I	■	T	■	S	■	N	■	O	■	X	■	T	■	M	■	P	■	P	■	T	■	A
70 N	A	K	E	D	L	A	D	I	E	S	■	71 W	A	I	V	E	■	72 E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C	S
E	■	I	■	E	■	S	■	N	■	O	■	E	■	O	■	R	■	G	■	O	■	S	■	V	■	E
73 S	Y	N	E	R	G	Y	■	74 G	E	N	T	L	E	M	A	N	S	A	G	R	E	E	M	E	N	T

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, is Ian Richards, of Swansea in Wales

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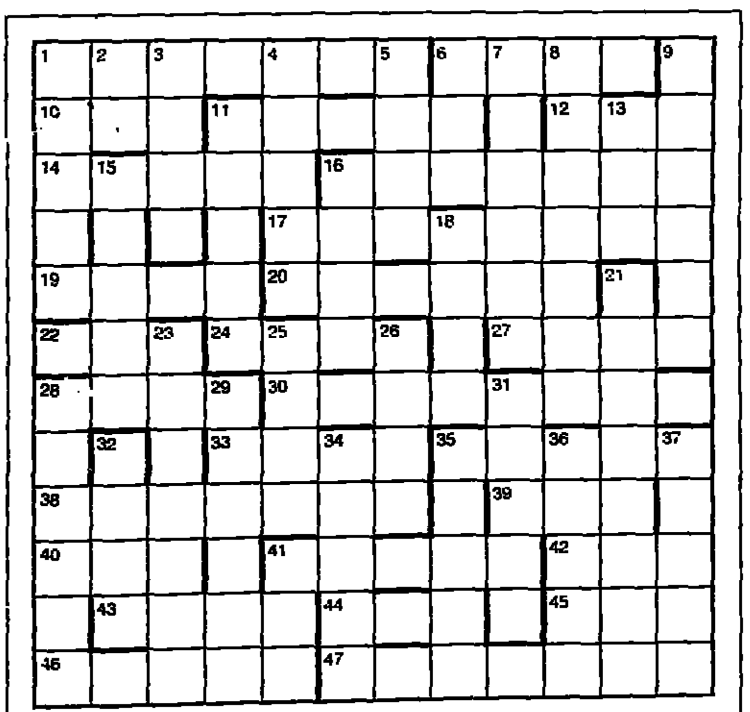

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FOR six-letter solutions, entries to the diagram should be *thematically* as shown in *The Chambers Dictionary*, 1993 edition (except that solvers should not attempt to reproduce the *italic* style). All other solutions should be entered as *shown in the same dictionary. Where appropriate*, pronounced care should be taken in shaping exactly the entries to the diagram.

Two lights are unclued. The thematic equivalence of these was proposed by one with a pronounced interest in the *vagaries of the English language. Across clues marked* * contain a redundant word. The *thematic* first letters derived from these words suggest the name of the proposer, which appears (first word, initially) in the completed diagram, very nearly connecting the two unclued words. Further evidence *to confirm* the connection may be derived from the extra letter in the definition part of the Down clues marked *. The extra letters spell three words, from each of which a thematic component may be selected, and combined, in order, to demonstrate the equivalence of the two unclued lights.

ACROSS

1 The Sultan of Morocco is quiet before European force
10 Other half of Jacque about due to be tailed
11 Hamlet, a tragic tale, out of time, about leader of Denmark
*12 *Japanese jumping fish is like one from Bangkok*
*14 Frank Leslie liquidated organic laevorotatory dilute acetic acid
*16 Scots issue writ in German with faulty stroke
*17 Jovial Scots put in a bad mood: foggy times shrouding sun
19 Skimmed vinegar pickled eggs
20 Hydrocarbon is in sandy tract
22 *"Shewed" is past tense*
*24 Good business to display triangular piece of land
*27 £50 note in advance to steal urns
*28 Last dances to rhythmic beat
*30 Based in Sapanca, I'm a nomadic camel-corps officer
*33 Avuncular constable about able to go locally at any time
*35 S Africa antelope reaches European district
*38 *Diana wishes otherwise: Reg softens*
39 Bowman gets rid of her part of the bow
40 Tangle over precious metal
41 Slang got a right bashing
*42 Sympathetic allowing idea without merit, finally
*43 Spenser's Hymn to stop in British Library to start with
*44 Like most churches, I'd be upset with autotelic sale
45 *There's a recurring efflorescence*
47 Stock helps in supply

DOWN

1 Fin starts from short keel, for example, to gain acceleration
2 Where, without hesitation, you sound good and hard and whistle
*3 *Improve worlds by reforming diet*
*4 Taree's resin is exported primarily with slaked lime
*5 Four sports, Irish events - confusing their starters?
*6 Fighter plane's air speed - these go higher than migs
*7 Fancy mine as inwardly shewn part
8 Set on keeping the navy robust
9 Contented cuckold due back after information
11 *They belong together*
*13 First for access to information technology - this could be in "browse"
*15 Open illegible message prepared from nib of smudgy pen
*16 Short note - it describes Kam or Panda, perhaps
*18 Sfex denoting condition - dirty old man
*21 Makes winder from forty old rushes
23 Example of portmanteau for holding an inert matrix
25 Skin problem described in cockney area
26 Scores with sex appeal in Royal Society
*28 Scoiety's trustee against gallons of currency tending to *rinse*
*29 Rotter twists ring turning on pain
*31 Associate out of office twinged
*32 Outside houris are lacking in break up
*34 Clotho starts to spin thread. RIP. End of life
*35 It's neat away from English. Untidy. Redo
36 A way to back Irish head king
37 *Och, I suffered after dram - just a wee one*
41 Oddly, auntie's cuckoo

1 K	N	2 A	3 P	4 S	5 F	6 G	7 L	8 A	M	9 P	10 S
11 E	N	D	A	A	G	E	E	N	T	A	I
Y	12 B	R	C	13 C	O	N	S	T	R	C	T
14 S	O	O	T	H	E	D	S	15 R	U	T	H
16 E	A	S	Y	E	17 S	18 E	R	U	19 D	I	E
20 A	R	A	O	M	T	R	Y	M	E	T	21 Y
S	S	U	22 S	23 C	O	N	24 T	U	S	I	E
25 T	A	R	P	A	N	G	E	26 E	P	O	S
27 Y	I	T	E	28 S	E	29 I	N	30 D	E	N	T
31 P	L	A	T	L	A	Y	R	A	R	E	E
T	O	32 E	C	A	L	C	I	T	A	T	E
33 O	R	C	H	E	L	S	34 L	E	D	E	N

Solution notes to 3426:
Directions Enclosed by Adam

The *Letters Latent* answers are: 5. *fog-lamps* 11. endamagement 13. constrict 18. erudite 20. araeometry 23. contusive 31. plate-layer 32. recalcitrate 34. Leyden 1. key-seats 2. hadrosaur 6. gendering 9. practitioner 12. board-sailor 17. *stonewall 19. desperado 21 yestreen 24. tendril*

The winner is: E.J. Mackenzie of Romford. Essex. The runners up are D.A. Reid of Dorking, Surrey; *R.R. Tyler of Exeter, Devon;* J. Gillam of Edinburgh in Scotland;M.W. Innes of Edenbridge in Kent; the Fortescue family of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

COUNTING how many tricks or potential tricks the defence and the declarer are making is the most important tool of good card play. A top-class player and heavy winner went wrong on today's hand by neglecting that principle. The deal occurred in the £100 game at TGR's. *(TGR stands for* The Great Rose: the late Irving Rose was the first manager of the club, which has the highest-stake rubber bridge in the UK.)

Dir South Rubber Bridge Love all

North:
♠A42
♥KJ
♦KJ1096
♣A94

West:
♠J1098
♥A642
♦A52
♣86

Contract: 3NT
Lead: jack of spades

South opens *1NT(12-14)* and North raises to 3NT. As West you lead the jack of spades: low from dummy, the three (discouraging) from East, and declarer wins with the king. Declarer continues with the four of diamonds, you play small, dummy *plays the jack and East the eight.* Declarer returns to his hand with a club to the king, and leads the seven of diamonds. How do you defend?

At the table West played low, which proved fatal. The full deal is shown at the top of the next *column*. With two *diamond tricks* in the bag, declarer (New Zealand international Lionel Wright) cashed two more rounds of spades and then two more rounds of clubs. When East turned out to have the fourth club, declarer exited with his *last club and East had to lead up to* the king-jack of hearts, thus giving declarer his ninth trick.

North:
♠A42
♥KJ
♦KJ1096
♣A94

West:
♠J1098
♥A642
♦A52
♣86

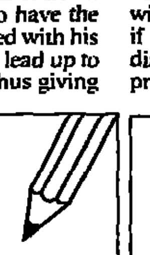
East:
♠53
♥Q10953
♦83
♣J753

South:
♠KQ76
♥87
♦Q74
♣KQ102

Back to West's play on the second round of diamonds. He can tell from the first round that East does not have the queen. Incidentally, it is sometimes correct for East to *duck with Qx, but not in this* instance, where dummy has plenty of entries. Hence the danger in ducking the second diamond is that it might give declarer his ninth trick — for example, his clubs might have been KQxxx, or KQJx *with the queen of spades*. Count declarer's tricks, remember.

So it is clear that West should win the second diamond. Now declarer is marked with two tricks in spades, four in diamonds and two in clubs. If he has the queen of *hearts, playing spades will not set* up enough tricks for the defence — even if East has the queen of spades, that is only four tricks. Thus the defence's only chance is to take four or more tricks in hearts. West switches to a low heart, and if *declarer misguesses he goes off.*

Here is the final refinement: West should take the first diamond. Ducking risks giving the contract South initially had eight black winners. Taking the ace only costs if East has singleton queen of diamonds; a *doubleton queen* will probably still make a trick.



TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the puzzles found on page 28

Question 1: 12.
The numbers on the right-*hand side are double the numbers* diagonally opposite on the left.

Question 2: Oct. *For example*, triplets, sextuplets, quadruplets and octuplets.

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Q There is an area in which you can help me which is more etiquette than manners. After five years as a widower, I remarried. My current wife's niece contends she has become my niece and is offended when I introduce her as my wife's niece. Is she my niece? My in-laws from my previous marriage say I am still their son-in-law. Am I?
Name and address withheld.

A A niece is defined as the daughter of a brother or sister, so your wife's niece is mistaken when she contends that she is your niece, too. She is correctly introduced as "my wife's niece", or "my niece by marriage". However, since this is obviously important to her, and manners are fundamentally about not doing things that upset others, you could stretch the semantics and refer to her as "our niece." Your in-laws from your previous marriage are also mistaken, even though this earlier bond was ended by death and not divorce. Just as it is unacceptable to have two wives, it is equally inappropriate to boast a double dose of in-laws. They are more suitably styled as "my late wife's parents", while they can refer to you as "our late daughter's husband".

Q There are many conflicting opinions about the use of fish knives. Would you, once and for all, put paid to this seemingly insuperable problem.
Maurice Taylor, Shrewsbury

A Poor old fish knives, what scorn these pretty and practical tools attract. The prejudice around them developed in the 19th century, when there was a simultaneous proliferation of new money and novel eating implements. Fish eaters (as they were then called) became associated by some with the *nouveaux riches*. Those who wished to make a point continued to eat fish either with a fork and a small piece of bread in the old Georgian style, or later with two forks. The latter method was affected by some diehards until quite recently. Despite all their bad PR, fish knives are to be found at some grand tables. So if you've got 'em and like 'em — then use 'em.

Q A friend of mine who I shall call Margaret Buckton is the tenant of an historic house. Under her lease she shows coach parties and other visitors around in the summer, but she is not allowed to charge under the terms of the trust. Currently, at the end of the summer, she is left with about £15 to give back to the trust. Is there any way she can encourage people to donate more?
CJJ, Lincolnshire

A I suggest she follows the example of a past treasurer to the Conservative Party, who rather than asking prospective donors outright for a donation towards party funds, achieved substantial results by saying: "We need such and such amount to pay for our poster campaign." She can apply this simple model to her situation by choosing a feature or artefact in the house that needs attention. As she passes it during the tour, she should say plaintively, "This magnificent object was bought by the third earl. Unfortunately, as you can see, it is in need of restoration. We are currently trying to raise money for its repair and any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated." In this way people feel they can contribute to a specific and personal project, and the trust should end up with more than the paltry sum you describe.

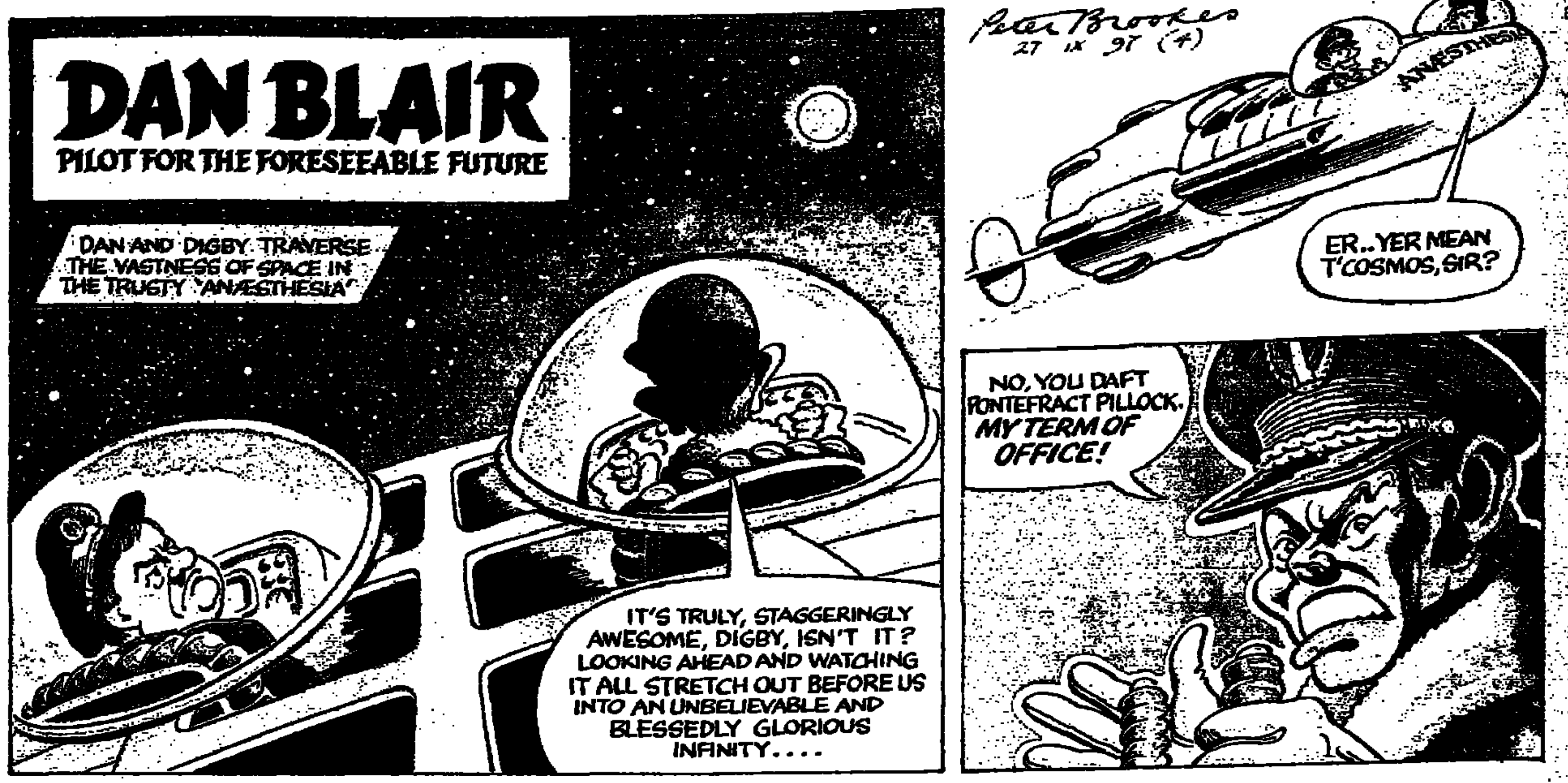
Q What should you do when you have not been invited to a business party that you have a legitimate right to attend? The function is being hosted by a company you have done business with and you know several people who are going, many of whom have asked whether you are attending. Should you ask the organisers whether your invitation has been lost in the post, or is discretion the better part of valour? Is it petty or a question of principle? What should you say to your business colleagues?
Neil Brooks, London WC2

A It is vital to keep your cool. When asked whether you are attending the party, just say, "I would love to but I am sure I have a prior engagement." Do not demean yourself by ringing up and trying the "lost in the post" trick. However, if you feel you must go (after first asking yourself how important a two-hour cocktail party is in the greater scheme of things), you could try persuading a friend to telephone the organiser and say something along the lines of: "I want to send something to Neil Brooks, but have lost his address. I feel sure he is on your invitation list for your party." If you are desperate, it may be worth following the example of a well-known socialite who often persuades a friend of sufficient standing with the host to organise a supper afterwards for the errant party giver and herself, thus making her indispensable to the guest list. However, her cool rating is zero.

Q Is it still correct form to remove salt cellars and pepper pots from the table after the main course of a meal?
LL, Petersfield

A Absolutely.

● *The author is associate editor of GQ. Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners,* The Times. *Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*


DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
DAN AND DIGBY TRAVERSE THE VASTNESS OF SPACE IN THE TRUSTY 'ANÆSTHESIA'
IT'S TRULY, STAGGERINGLY AWESOME, DIGBY, ISN'T IT? LOOKING AHEAD AND WATCHING IT ALL STRETCH OUT BEFORE US INTO AN UNBELIEVABLE AND BLESSEDLY GLORIOUS INFINITY....
Peter Brookes 27 IX 97 (4)
ANÆSTHESIA
ER..YER MEAN T'COSMOS, SIR?
NO, YOU DAFT PONTEFRACT PILLOCK, MY TERM OF OFFICE!

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LOKI
a. Poor girl in German fairytale
b. A Caspian Sea fish
c. A bad boy

RUNOUT
a. Tanker deballasting
b. Detention centre exercise
c. An artillery design feature

CONIC SECTIONS
a. Geometrical figures
b. Shipboard morning parade
c. Weather forecaster's map

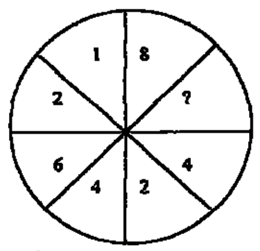
HIPPOCAMPUS
a. Big-game photgrapher's hide
b. A pop university
c. A seahorse

Answers on page 24

TWO BRAINS

THE brain weighs about the same as a bag of sugar — approximately 2 percent of bodyweight. But it accounts for up to 20 per cent of the body's energy needs. Each nerve cell in the brain can be connected with up to 100,000 others. Counting each nerve connection in the human brain cortex — the outer layer — at the rate of one per second would take 32 million years.

Question 1:
What is the missing number?



Question2:
Tri is to sex as quad is to . . .?

Answers on page 27. **R.K.**

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

As I was saying, the main lexicographical guides in *The Times* crossword are Collins English Dictionary, the Concise Oxford and Chambers. The first two are relatively similar in their coverage of commonly used vocabulary. Chambers, by contrast, contains more obscure words and meanings, including archaisms, Scottish words, variants of spellings by the likes of Milton, Spenser and Shakespeare, and the occasional *hapax legomenon* such as "egma" (Costard's attempt at "enigma" in *Love's Labour's Lost*).

My usual practice is to consult all three dictionaries. One of the lessons I have learnt as a compiler, and even more painfully as a crossword editor, is that dictionaries and other reference works are by no means consistent in definition or even spelling of words.

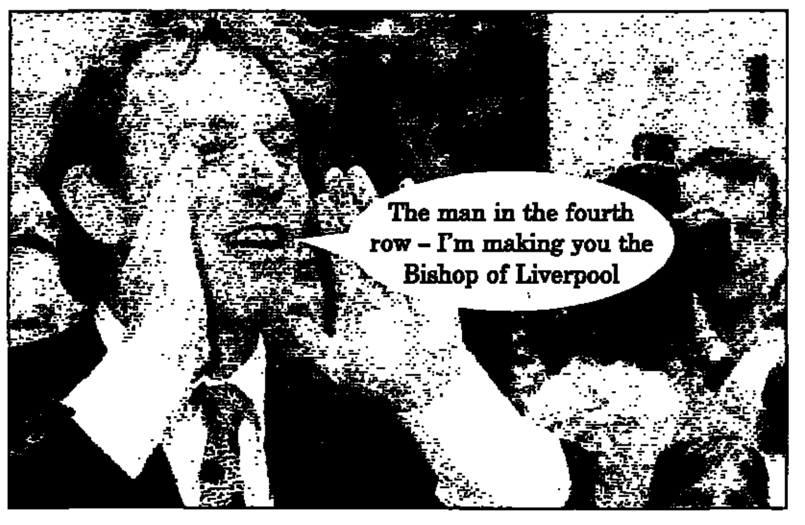
On one occasion, a reader took issue with spelling the Hungarian dance as "czardas" rather than "csardas". The Concise Oxford includes the former as a variant of the latter. Collins gives *only* "czardas", whereas Chambers states that "czardas" is an erroneous spelling of "csardas" (so why include it!).

Meanings also vary, particularly (or so it seems to me) in the definition of food. "Entremets" is "a light dish served . . . between the main courses" in Chambers but is also defined as "a dessert" in Collins.

Such subtle distinctions can be important in deciding if a clue is valid. For example, I received an objection to the clue: What translates into "tapas"? (9) on the grounds that "antipasto" means "an hors d'oeuvre", whereas "tapas" is plural. The clue is defensible, however, because Collins defines "antipasto" as "a course of hors d'oeuvres". Finally, I cannot resist quoting the definition in Chambers of "eclair" as "a cake, long in shape but short in duration" — the best-known, but not the only, joke tucked away therein.

● *Brian Greer is Crossword Editor of* The Times.

PICTURE LINE


The man in the fourth row – I'm making you the Bishop of Liverpool

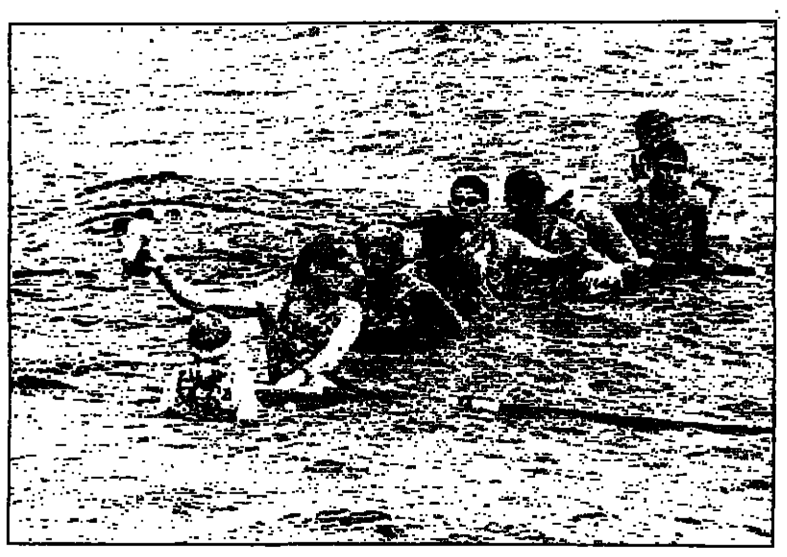
The winning caption for last week's picture competition was submitted by the Reverend C. Skilton of South Croydon in London

READERS are invited to suggest what the people in the picture below is saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

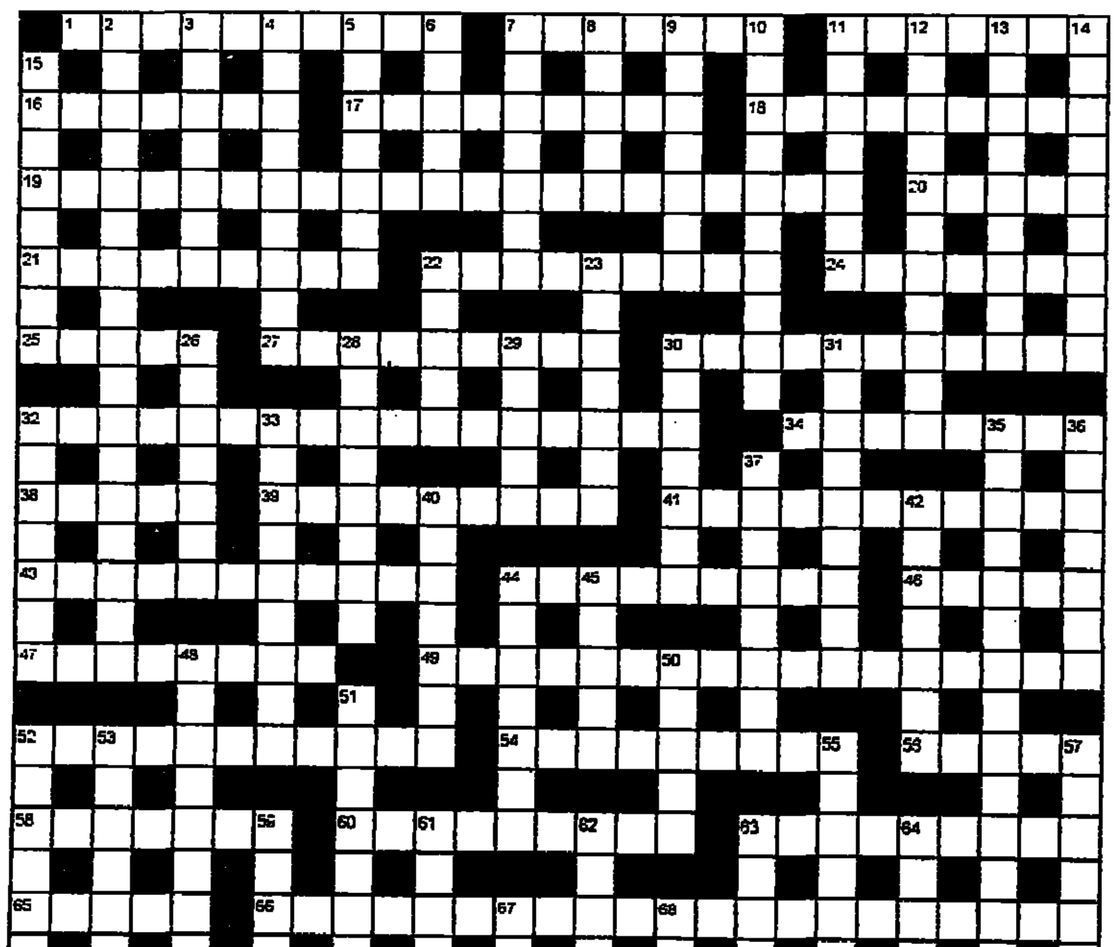
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 24.



JUMBO CROSSWORD 129

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 129, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday October 6. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, October 11



NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

....

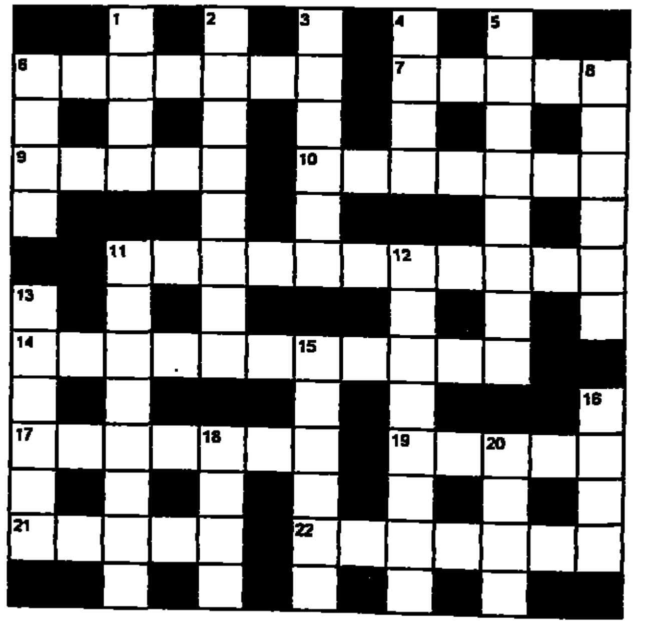
....

.... POSTCODE ....

ACROSS
1 One hemmed in by top men not somehow in complete control (10)
7 A domestic device for keeping the rest apart (4,3)
11 Commercial traveller suffered with case finally jam-packed (7)
16 Morally strict saint before going after gold (7)
17 Provisional shelter — it's set back in avenue (9)
18 Believing something, and trying to impress, after a little drink (9)
19 Prepares for various debates and acts with little enthusiasm (4,7,3,7)
20 Saying that's not of the BC era? (5)
21 Demanding woman could make great man start to tremble (9)
22 Endlessly put up with ruler, and favoured showing fresh enthusiasm (4-5)
24 Demanding old lover, one with respectable bloke (7)
25 Bloomers you come across in prose sometimes (5)
27 Dubious forecast makes Rex join very large company in expectation (9)
30 MP seeing supporter embracing short man and companion (11)
32 Talker on TV is not as clear, I fancy (17)
34 Endless radiance attaches to an atmosphere around Fairy Queen (8)
38 Crash reverberated behind car park (5)
39 Unfashionable drapes looking terrible unfurled (9)
41 They should make sound excellent within noddles (7-4)
43 Fluffy stuff, this was first seen in urban community (11)
44 Part arose — from its motion? (9)
46 What may sound like pirate's sword? (5)
47 What tall man might wear in many clubs when congregating? (4,4)
49 Poorly paid, after such regular contributions? (8,9)
52 Confine naughty niece threatening everyone involved? (11)
54 Lost again at sea and longing for home? (9)
56 Fabric made by fantastic spinner finally running out (5)
58 Bread is thrown for gull, perhaps (3,4)
60 They make court characters look flat (4-5)
63 Modern lady — treat in a new way? (6-3)
65 Woman, fifty, found in a river (5)
66 Following a false trail to obstruct Charles II, perhaps — not perched in an *oak*! (7,2,3,5,4)
69 Seek to establish a view in Sussex or back away from argument? (5,4)
70 The sound of this bird makes cat bestir itself (9)
71 In mature years, care to resettle in country area? (7)
72 Boy grasps some of the Bard's work (7)
73 What's found among children, ten — terrible understanding (7)
74 The right documents (5-5)

DOWN
2 Person met in satire — possibly an unfair caricature? (17)
3 One may a moment of such lifelessness in a physics lesson (7)
4 Outwit but go too far? (9)
5 Invest in hospital department before sign of deterioration (7)
6 Point one expressed differently in maths (5)
7 I must do some marking — not all correct each error (7)
8 One with few brains has nothing inside in a manner of speaking (5)
9 Insect meets terrible fate in hot drink (4,3)
10 Little girl's state, one cut out to be separate (10)
11 Toper is drunk, making sudden thrust (7)
12 No amateur cricketer, I — one needing runs as a new recruit (11)
13 I bet Hazel could beat this girl (9)
14 For example, our country diner used kitchen utensil (3-6)
15 Merriment subsequently interrupted by expression of disgust (8)
22 Players in orchestra not right round singer (5)
23 US resident has a way of thinking about the Queen (7)
26 Cunning — vehicle is on time (7)
28 Old books quoted in measure leading to revolution (8)
29 For a teapot, essential component is spout (5)
30 Brutal type, however dear to Parisians (7)
31 William is holding a way to make the game (9)
32 Administrative centre's financial assets (7)
33 Announcement of certain policy in seaside feature (9)
35 Cinderella I now read afresh — and it's a great story for children (5,2,10)
36 A bishop desperately loves to forgive (7)
37 Vibrating remarkably (8)
40 Writer needs an Anglican church to find atonement (7)
42 Possibly corporation's empty talk, mostly done to deceive (7)
44 Part of weekend that's @ace@, pleasant, almost @wicked@ (7)
45 Holy matter engrossing one with halo (5)
48 Useful cable I sever accidentally (11)
50 Collect in a celebration of Eucharist (5)
51 Either surplus or deficit could cause argument (10)
52 Illustrations showing batting positions at wicket (9)
53 Portrayer of Lear maybe starts to tremble re-enacting old man (9)
55 Old instrument with a flashing light outside US city (9)
57 Coward's play that may bring tears to the eyes (3,5)
59 Call promises to repay unreliable? (7)
61 Jumper for sport (7)
62 Anger about awkward pet — animal sloughing skin? (7)
63 The foreign player at table grabbing dame's frontage is most lascivious (7)
64 You may get the point very soon! (2,5)
67 Made progress, having to start prevailing fashion (3,2)
68 Tenderness is right in the course of passion (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1210

ACROSS
6 Foretell (7)
7 A shrub; a sweeper (5)
9 Indifferent gesture (5)
10 Manifest (7)
11 Justification for existence (6,5)
14 Establish boundary (of conduct) (4,3,4)
17 Kipling's *grey-green greasy River* (7)
19 Gum: imit. jewellery (5)
21 Pale (pink): curt (answer) (5)
22 *Sunflowers* artist (3,4)

DOWN
1 NE river; damage from use (4)
2 Knowing foreign tongues (8)
3 Artist's workplace (6)
4 Sacred wader (4)
5 Gambling game, lethal *Russian* version (8)
6 Job; letters (4)
8 Destructive confusion (6)
11 Furthest back (8)
12 Very wet; fat from roast (8)
13 Confused, rotten (eg egg) (6)
15 Develop over time (6)
16 Net; engage (teeth) (4)
18 A banded chalcedony (4)
20 Deer trail; hole for coin (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1209
ACROSS: 4 Viper 7 Adequate 8 Dirt 9 Shambles 10 Shrewd 13 Au fait 14 Repent 15 Cheers 18 For a fact 19 Iris 20 Levitate 21 Dwell
DOWN: 1 Garish 2 Kettle 3 Cursed 4 Vermouth 5 Palliate 6 Russet 11 Repartee 12 Windfall 14 Refund 15 Catkin 16 Elijah 17 Ruined

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